THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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SUICIDE BOMBING IN BALOCHISTAN LEAVES AT LEAST 27 DEAD, 62 HURT

A suicide bomber detonated himself at a railway platform in Quetta, killing at least 27 people, included 14 members of the security forces

BALOCH LIBERATION ARMY OWNS UP ATTACK

The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), one of the area's main separatist groups, claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack "was carried out on a Pakistani army unit at Quetta railway station... after completing a course at the Infantry School," the BLA said in a statement. Railway officials said the blast happened near the ticket booth when trains depart

TOLL TO GO UP AS MANY REPORTED CRITICAL

- A local doctor treating the victims said that the toll is expected to rise as several individuals wounded are in a critical condition
- TV footage showed the steel structure of the platform's roof blown apart and a destroyed tea stall. Most of the victims were taken to a state-owned hospital and some to a military one | P9

1,534

PEOPLE KILLED IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 2024 IN PAKISTAN

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

J&K students in state college told to trim beard?

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association (JKSA) has alleged that more than two dozen Kashmiri students at the Government College of Nursing, Holenarasipur, are facing discrimination over their personal appearance.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday, the association stated that these students, enrolled under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS), are being forced by the college administration to either trim their beards to a "01" trimmer length or be clean-shaven.

According to the association, the students, who refuse to follow these instructions, are being marked absent during clinical duties, impacting their attendance and academic records. The college, which operates under the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences and is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, has allegedly imposed these restrictions as a prerequisite for participating in college activities and clinical work. P3

Waqf Bill steamroller may face Naidu block

JPC vetting the bill scheduled to submit its report soon

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID mounting pressure from its Muslim leaders, key ally Telugu Desam Party may ask the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre to postpone submission of the final report of the Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 to Parliament, according to sources.

The panel led by BJP MP Jagadambika Pal is scheduled to table the final report on the Waqf Bill in the first week of the winter session of Parliament, which begins on November 25. With 16 MPs, the TDP, led by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is a key partner of the NDA government, and its support is crucial for passing the bill in Parliament. If Naidu opposes the bill, the Centre may buy time to table it, said sources.

The JPC is in the final phase of consultations with stakeholders and visits to various states. "The government may not go ahead with the bill if Naidu opposes it. In that case, it will simply say that the report is yet to be finalised," said a leader aware of the developments.

TDP's Muslim leaders have urged Naidu not to support the amendments. With Muslims accounting for 10-12% of Andhra Pradesh's population, the TDP doesn't want to antagonise the community, which played a crucial role in its stunning victory in the recent assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

Muslim groups have been opposing several amendments, including the appointment of non-Muslims as members of the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards.

Senior TDP leader Nawab Jan said last week that Naidu will not let any bill that harms Muslims be implemented. At the 'Samvidhan Bachao Sammelan' organised by Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind in Delhi, the TDP leader claimed that Naidu was instrumental in sending the Waqf Bill to the JPC.

First test for AP CM's secular credentials

The Waqf Bill is perceived to be the first test for Naidu's secular credentials ever since he joined the NDA government. He does not want to antogonise Muslims, who account for 10-12% of Andhra's population and contributed to the TDP's win in the polls

RTI DATA

WOMEN END THE JUDICIARY GENDER SKEW IN KERALA

P RAMDAS @ Kochi

THE higher judiciary may still be a male bastion, but Kerala is leading the charge to remove the gender skew in the district judiciary. The number of women serving as judicial officers, including magistrates and session judges, in the state are almost as many as their male counterparts.

Of the 539 serving district judicial officers in Kerala, 260, or just over 48%, were women as on September 12, as per data was shared by the Kerala High Court in response to an RTI query by this paper.

Of the 36 officers, who recently completed their one-year induction training for civil judges (junior division) at Kerala Judicial Academy, 26 (72%) were women. Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had highlighted it in a recent speech.

Women excelled in the Kerala Judicial Service Examination, 2023, with 75 candidates securing a spot in the rank list. Fifty candidates have been appointed from the latest Kerala Judicial Services Examination rank list as civil judge (junior division) trainees. There are currently 36 women candidates among the 50 trainees undergoing the one-year pre-induction training at the judicial academy.

Appointment of civil judge officers in the judicial service will take place only after the completion of training, the RTI reply said. The picture is different when it comes to the Kerala High Court. Of the 45 judges, only four are women.

The RTI data also reveals there are 68 women district and sessions judges in the state.

Sunday Special

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WITH THIS ISSUE DO WE NEED THE UN? PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

CM: Will prosecute BSY, Sudhakar, others

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR & DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Sandur/Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said that his government will act on the report of the Justice John Michael D'Cunha Commission, which was formed to investigate the alleged corruption during the Covid-19 pandemic under the BJP rule.

Addressing the media here, Siddaramaiah confirmed that the state cabinet will soon discuss the commission's report and the government would take steps to prosecute those involved, including former CM BS Yediyurappa and former health ministers B Sriramulu and Dr Sudhakar, in the alleged scam.

COVID SCAM

"I had raised concerns over this scam while I was the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, presenting documents that showed misappropriation of over Rs 2,000 crore," he said. "They chose to buy medical equipment from overseas suppliers at inflated prices instead of procuring them locally," the CM said.

He said it is the government's duty to take action against those involved. The BJP may claim that this is political vendetta, but his only intention is to ensure that those responsible for the scam are held accountable, he added. P2

Charges baseless, says BSY

Former CM BS Yediyurappa said the allegations are false. "The Congress government is using the panel's report for political gains."

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks at an event in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

FM to women: Patriarchy an excuse for inefficiency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PATRIARCHY is a convenient excuse for inefficiency and not a barrier to success, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, dismissing the 'patriarchal concept' as a "fancy jargon".

Interacting with students at Jain (Deemed-to-be) University here, the Union minister argued that women in India have long proven their capability, from leading freedom struggles to sending satellites to Mars. She highlighted how India is adopting a multifaceted approach to foster innovation and position itself as a global leader.

On 'India's growth story — Marching towards Viksit Bharat', the Union minister criticised the influence of 'leftist terms' that dominate discussions and questioned the relevance of patriarchy in modern India. She said, "If you can stand up and argue logically, who is there to silence you?" She urged women not to hide behind terms such as patriarchy to justify any shortcomings. P5

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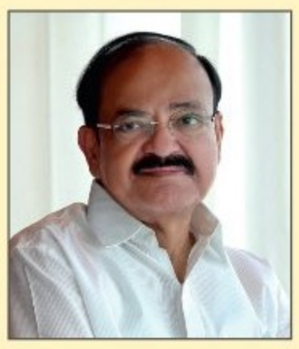

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU
Hon'ble Former Vice-President of India
In the presence of

THIRU. DURAIMURUGAN
Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

DR. GOVI CHEZHIAAN
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

Presided by
DR. G. VISWANATHAN
Founder & Chancellor

on 12th November 2024, Tuesday, 10.00 A.M.,
at Anna Auditorium, VIT, Vellore

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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Sunday:** 10.11.2024 • **Year:** Krodhi • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Sharad • **Masa:** Karthika • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Navami 4.23 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Dhanishta 7.36 am • Moon in Meena Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 06.16 am
Sunset 05.50 pm
Moonrise 01.34 am
Moonset 12.39 pm

Children take part in Arivu Kendra's bird session, in Udupi district

GIVING WINGS

'Early Bird' initiative of Nature Conservation Foundation engages children in various outreach activities to make them bird lovers through Arivu Kendras (rural libraries)

Gram Panchayat libraries in Karnataka rebranded as 'Arivu Kendras' and now 'Early Bird' initiative of the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) helps children understand birds better | EXPRESS

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

GONE are the days when you woke up to crows cawing or woodpeckers pecking your neighbourhood tree. With rapid urbanisation, even the common house sparrow has become uncommon! The fallout is that, today's children have limited interaction with birds.

The feathered beauties also provide a wonderful opportunity for children to connect with nature at a tender age and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. The 'Early Bird' initiative of the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), a charitable trust with its head office in Mysuru and functioning across the country, is supporting the cause of making naturists out of children. The foundation engages children in various outreach activities to make them bird lovers through Arivu Kendras — rural libraries in Karnataka.

It all started with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department rebranding gram panchayat libraries in Karnataka as 'Arivu Kendras' not long ago. In March this year, under the Early Bird initiative, NCF came forward to transform 500 librarians at Arivu Kendras in all districts into 'bird educators'. There are 16 such bird educators in as many Arivu Kendras in Udupi district alone.

NCF has equipped these libraries with a specially designed 'Nature Education Kit' to foster a deeper understanding of nature and birds among children.

Abhisheka Krishnagopal, Programme Manager, Education and Public Engagement, NCF, who led the training for master trainers, told *The New Sunday Express* that experienced nature educators from across the state were trained who now conduct workshops for librarians at Arivu Kendras. The nature education kits are used to ignite curiosity about nature and birds among children. Abhisheka added that children have an innate curiosity about nature which is lost as they grow up. "Birds can be a wonderful starting point for nature education since they are beautiful and interesting and can be found all around us, no matter where we live. Through the Early Bird initiative, we work towards facilitating this by creating high-quality resources, training people to become bird educators, and conducting outreach," she adds.

The initiative between NCF and Karnataka government aims to take bird education to 500 Arivu Kendras across the state. "Through this, we are promoting nature education in a fun and interactive manner. Close to 16–20 libraries from each district were selected and equipped with nature education kits. They consist of posters of birds and plants, a set of 40 flashcards about common birds of Karnataka, creative activities like join-the-dots and folk-art bird activity sheets, games like bingo, jigsaw puzzles, storybooks, and natural history booklets," Abhisheka says.

In March this year, 12 nature educators from NCF travelled across 31 districts, training 500 gram panchayat librarians to use the kit.

Sumathi, a librarian at the Arivu Kendra in Havanje, Udupi district, told TNSE that the biodiversity committee existed in Havanje earlier too, and a lot of activities concerning birds and nature were conducted. "The Early Bird initiative further boosted the bird-watching exercise in our village," she said.

As a master trainer, Sumathi said Havanje has four spots where bird sightings are common. "Around 400 species of birds visit our village, and children can identify them. We conduct bird watching in the village at 6 am, and along with kids, adults too join us in good numbers," she adds.

Deepa S Shetty, the librarian at the Arivu Kendra in Tallur near Kundapur taluk of Udupi district, says that puzzles in the kits helped children match birds with their diets and habitats and also other facts about winged friends. More children are coming to the library now after their class hours, and on Sundays too, she says.

In June 2024, three NGOs — Adhyayan Foundation, Children's Movement for Civic Awareness (CMCA) and the Early Bird programme of NCF -- collaborated to develop a year-long course in creating child-friendly libraries. They aim to make librarians more confident and turn them into creative resource persons who can run library programmes regularly and effectively for children. Trained librarians now can identify birds, remember bird calls, draw birds and play bird-related games, as well as narrate several interesting facts about birds.

Stroll of Independence in this Tiranga Park

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

TUCKED away in a corner of Gadag is the unique L-shaped Tiranga Park. Situated on 1.5 acres of land, the park has a 120-ft flagpole installed eight years ago, making it the highlight of the little town.

Inaugurated on August 15, 2016, by minister HK Patil, the park is a green stretch, with water fountains installed along the length of the park and the flagpole made of pure aluminium. Besides the lush park, the pole stands as a major attraction in the centre of the park. Measuring 8ftx12ft, it works on an electronic mechanism, easing flag-hoisting. It was manufactured in Mumbai, owing to a lack of flag-making units in Hubballi and Bengaluru.

While Bengaluru's Rashtriya Sena Smarak has a 213-ft flagpole, making it the tallest in Karnataka, Tiranga Park's flagpole is reportedly the tallest in North Karnataka. Gadag is the first district in the State to have a Tiranga Park. The park, a Rs 2.25-crore project, is the relentless effort of HK Patil and team, who worked continuously for six months to complete it.

On the other hand, this iconic park is not just an ordinary green spot but tells the story of India's Independence. Amidst the beautiful garden, photographs of freedom fighters with brief information is also displayed, enabling visitors to understand the contributions of these great men.

The park has information boards on its walls. While some of the boards explain the meaning of the National Anthem and National Flag, others educate people about the non-cooperation movement, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Simon Commission, Dandi March, Dwaja Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. It also displays brief information about Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai, Babu Jagjeevan Ram, Sardar Bhagat Singh and Veerasanyasi Vivekananda. The meaning of the National Anthem in Kannada is also displayed here, enabling people to understand in depth the anthem they sing by heart.

Dr SR Nagnur, a senior doctor and environmentalist said, "There was a time when anybody who tried to hoist the National Flag had faced capital punishment. Mahatma Gandhi and other freedom fighters got us Independence and today we are able to proudly hoist our flag."

President of the Gadag Cooperative Industrial Estate Ranganna Odugoudar, who played a major role in building the park said, "The project has been undertaken to educate people, especially the youth, about the freedom struggle, freedom fighters, national integrity and importance of the National Flag. Besides, because the park is situated by the road, it enables travellers to visit the park."

THE 24 MANTRA

The National Flag's Ashoka Chakra features 24 spokes, symbolising 24 hours of the day and the 24 Dharmatma Rishis mentioned in the Gayatri Mantra. It also reflects the essence of Buddha's teachings. The blue colour of the Ashok Chakra represents the sky and ocean

The unique L-shaped Tiranga Park, which has a 120-ft flagpole installed at the centre in Gadag. The park also has photographs of freedom fighters with brief information, enabling visitors to understand their contribution | EXPRESS

Siddu: BSY, Sriramulu involved in Covid graft

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE commission has recommended prosecution of then CM Yediyurappa and then health minister B Sriramulu under Sections 7 and 11 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. It has also recommended action against officials responsible for procuring 3 lakh PPE kits from Chinese firms at inflated prices.

The commission has submitted a 1,500-page document, and a cabinet sub-committee is examining it, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

"As per the report, Yediyurappa and Sriramulu were directly involved in irregularities in the purchase of PPE kits. An inquiry will be ordered. My sincere advice to both of them is to refrain from campaigning for bypolls. Sriramulu's successor (Dr Sudhakar) will also be probed," Siddaramaiah said.

The commission has submitted its interim report and another will follow, he added.

Meanwhile, AS Ponnanna, legal adviser to Siddaramaiah, said the cabinet has accepted the interim report, which has recommended criminal prosecution of Yediyurappa, former CM Basavaraj Bommai, Sriramulu and Dr Sudhakar.

Sources said the probe revealed that Yediyurappa and Sriramulu approved purchase of PPE kits from China at Rs 2,117.53 per unit against Rs 2,049.84, as per the records of a price fixation committee meeting held in April 2020. On the pretext of urgency, a decision was taken by invoking the special clause of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act to bypass competitive bidding, sources alleged.

The commission said there were cases of KSMSCL procuring PPE kits from domestic suppliers at lower rates. It questioned why the government preferred to import them. Prices in the domestic market ranged from Rs 400 to Rs 1,444.80. But the government paid double the amount to DHB Global, a foreign company, the report noted.

When the commission was set up, the accused officers did not cooperate and furnished files related to the procurement process. But the commission managed to access important files through e-mails to establish that irregularities had taken place, a source said.

Politics behind it: HDK

Union minister HD Kumaraswamy criticised the commission's recommendation for prosecution of Yediyurappa, Bommai, Sriramulu and Dr Sudhakar. He called it "a politically motivated move". "This is an attempt by Congress to misuse its agencies," he said in Channapatna. He said Congress was engaging in revenge politics ahead of the bypolls.

Housing project for SC/ST, pourakarmikas yet to get approval

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

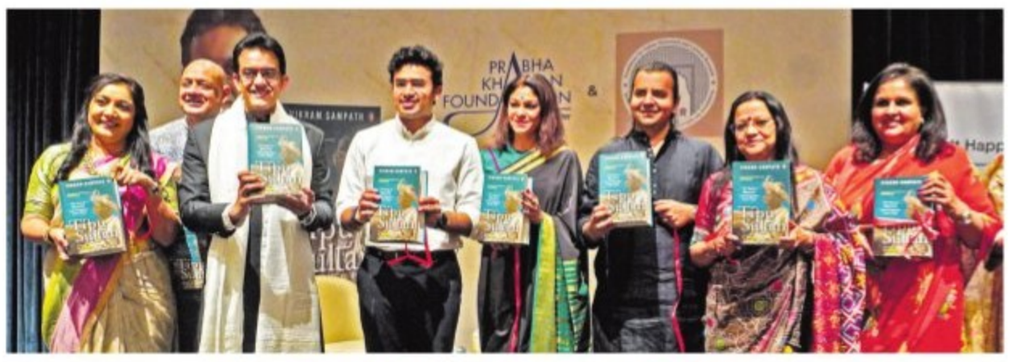
THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) pourakarmikas and eligible SC/ST community members who were selected among 1,110 applicants for the allotment of sites measuring 20x30 feet in Dasanapura Hobli in Bengaluru North and Kengeri Hobli (Bengaluru Urban) expressed frustration over delays by the BBMP welfare department and Urban Development Department in forming layouts and allotting these sites.

Secretary of Bahujan Vimochana Chaluvali Gangadhar launched a scathing attack against the BBMP and the state government, stating, "The BBMP and revenue department has contributed nothing in identifying land. Activists have been persistent, securing 29 acres in 2008, yet eligible beneficiaries have struggled for years as the Palike delayed layout formation."

Gangadhar also alleged that Rs 42 crore has been allocated from BBMP's consolidated (Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan SCP/TP) fund of 450 crore but the file for approval is pending before the administrator.

"The BBMP welfare department has proposed to construct a complex and allot houses but we rejected the proposal , as our community has long fought for land rights. Once the BBMP gets the administrator's approval for the formation of the layout with Rs 42 crore allocated under the Special Component, community members will begin constructing their houses," said Gangadhar.

Of the total land, 22 acres were designated in Dasanapura Hobli and 7 acres in Kengeri Hobli. In 2018, the Urban Development Department, Bengaluru directed BBMP to fence these areas. However, due to the assembly elections, the land process was delayed. "In 2023, we raised the issue with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar. "Despite the DCM's directive to expedite the process, progress is very slow. The money has been already sanctioned by the BBMP accounts department and the proposal has been sent to the administrator. 40 days have passed with no approvals," said a pourakarmika leader.



FOR HISTORY BUFFS...

Historian and writer Vikram Sampath at the release of his book Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1761-1799) with Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, choreographer Madhu Nataraj and CEO and co-founder of Ola Consumer Bhavish Aggarwal at Prestige Falcon Towers in Bengaluru on Saturday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

KRISHNA TO KAVERI CULTURAL FEST CELEBRATES GLORY OF K'TAKA

Bengaluru: To revive the cultural glory of Karnataka, Bangalore International Centre in association with Azim Premji University organised a two-day cultural confluence--'Krishne inda Kaverivarege' (Krishna to Kaveri). It was inaugurated by Kannada film director TS Nagabharana and Dharanidevi Malagatti, director at Kannada and Cultural Department here on Saturday. "Karnataka has the highest number of folklore in the world but we do not have time and patience to learn it," Nagabharana said. The cultural heritage of Karnataka, the royal emblems and Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products were also exhibited. The programme also had performances, workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions with artists.

Art centre for disabled unveiled by Samarthanam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO nurture and showcase the artisitic talents of individuals with disability, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled inaugurated the Samarthanam Art Centre at HSR Layout on Thursday.

A press release from Samarthanam said that the centre is designed for performances, and has dedicated spaces for training, therapy, and creative development, providing a nurturing environment for artistes to hone their skills. It also features the Samarthanam Institute of Music & Performing Arts (SIMPA), which offers programmes in collaboration with Karnataka State Dr Gangubai Hangal University of Music and Performing Arts (KSGH). The centre which has 337-seat acoustic auditorium, advanced stage lighting, cyclorama screen, and inclusive design was inaugurated by playback singer Kunal Ganjawala. Mahantesh G Kivadasannavar, Founder and Managing Trustee of Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled said, "The Samarthanam Art Centre is a space where creativity knows no boundaries and talent flourishes in a fully accessible, inclusive environment."

A male elephant was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire in Yudukuru village in Shivamogga district on Saturday. The jumbo was part of a herd of 17 animals that have been camping at the Beetamma Gang coffee estate for three days and damaging crops in the area

Man kills wife, son, jumps before train

Mangaluru: A man allegedly murdered his wife and a four-year-old son and ended his life by coming in front of a moving train in Mulki police station limits near Mangaluru. Police first recovered a body on the tracks on November 8, which they later identified as Kartik Bhat (32), a resident of Pakshikere in Mulki. During investigation, police went to Bhat's house and found the bodies of his wife Priyanka (27)and son Hriday. They were stabbed with a broken window pane. A death note was recovered at the crime scene, in which Kartik confessed about killing his wife and son before ending his own life. **ENS**

The fire broke out at the wood factory in Attibele Industrial Area on the Hosur-Bengaluru Main Road at 3.30 am on Saturday | EXPRESS

WORKER CHARRED TO DEATH AS MASSIVE FIRE ENGULFS FACTORY

Six fire tenders battle flames for five hours; loss estimated at Rs5 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 25-year-old man was charred to death when a massive fire broke out at Sri Ram and Co. wood factory in Attibele Industrial Area on the Hosur-Bengaluru Main Road early on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Govind Kumar of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. He was reportedly sleeping inside the factory at the time of the incident. Around 25 labourers work in the factory and stay in sheds. After the fire broke out, all of them came out, except Kumar. His body was found near a wood pressing machine.

Factory owner Harshad Patel told the police that the fire was noticed around 3.30 am. The fire department received the call to their control room at 3.52 am. Fire stations at Sarjapur and Anekal, including others in the vicinity, were immediately alerted and more than six fire tenders were rushed to the spot. The fire was brought under control after about five hours.

Timber stacks, machines and other materials were completely gutted in the incident. The flames were contained before they could spread to the adjacent food factory. The fire was brought under control after about five hours. Local water tankers were also used to douse the fire.

"The exact reasons for the fire are not known yet. An electrical short circuit is being suspected. The loss is estimated at around Rs 5 crore. The owner has stated that there were no lapses from his side and they have all the required permission. The company is into manufacturing and supplying bentwood furniture," an officer said.

A case of causing death by negligence under Section 106 of the BNS has been registered. No arrests have been made.

The Attibele police of the Bengaluru district police have registered a case.

Jeweller goes to Guj, servants flee with ₹15.15-cr valuables

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A couple from Nepal and their two associates are on the run after burgling gold, diamond ornaments and other valuables worth Rs 15.15 crore from the house of a jeweller in Hosahalli Extension in Vijaynagar police station limits.

Surendra Kumar Jain (46), who owns the reputed Arihant Jewellers in Vidyaranya Nagar on Magadi Road, filed a complaint with the police on Thursday after finding 8 kg of gold, 212 gram of diamond ornaments, Rs 40.80 lakh in cash and other valuables missing from his house.

The incident happened between November 1 and 7, when the Jain family had gone to Gujarat. The suspects, identified as main accusedd Namraj, his wife Sushmitha, Dyankaran and Rajesh, are suspected to have escaped to Nepal.

The accused couple had been working for Jain — the husband as a security guard and his wife as domestic help — for the last six months and were staying in the servant's room.

In the complaint, Jain stated that there are seven workers in his shop, where Namraj worked as a security guard. Namraj also worked as a gardener in Jain's residence. Jain's five sisters, who had also gone to Gujarat, had kept all their gold ornaments at his house since there was a security guard.

"Jain and his family returned home around 3.30 am on Thursday and found out about the theft. When they went to the servant's room, Namraj and his wife were missing and their mobile phones switched off. A team of policemen will go to Nepal to arrest the accused," said an officer.

A case of theft under Section 306 of BNS has been registered against the accused.

J&K student forum urges CM to intervene

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE association stated that the right to personal appearance, including growing a beard, is a fundamental aspect of individual freedom and identity.

"This is not just an issue of personal grooming, it is a matter of fundamental rights. No student should be forced to choose between their education and their beliefs," the letter stated. The association urged the chief minister to intervene immediately and ensure that the students' constitutional rights are protected.

Stating that Karnataka is known for its unity and diversity, the association sought steps to promote inclusivity and tolerance in educational institutions.

The college administration could not be reached for comment.

EXPRESS READ

Two men killed with iron rod in workshop shed

Bengaluru: Two men were found murdered in the shed of a workshop belonging to a reputed travel agency at Singasandra in Bagalur police station limits on Saturday morning. Both the victims were working as cleaners in the workshop located at an industrial area at Are Binnamangala in Singasandra. The deceased have been identified as Nagesh (41) of Ramanagara and Manju (44) of Mandya. The two are suspected to have returned to the shed after work on Friday. The assailants attacked the victim with an iron rod, killing them on the spot. Nagesh was working in the workshop for the last two years and Manju for the last four months. At 7.30 am, other workers came for work and found the two murdered inside the shed. "Details of the accused are known and they will be arrested soon," said an officer. **ENS**

Home-alone woman smothered to death

Bengaluru: A 44-year-old home-alone woman was found murdered at her rented house near Hongasandra bus stop in Bommanahalli police station limits on Saturday morning. The victim was a small-time financier, and the police suspect that the murder might be money related. The victim, identified as Jayamma, is from Tamil Nadu. Her two sons stay separately. She was punched on the face before being smothered with a pillow and then strangulated. The building owner saw the main doors of the house open and, on checking, found the body. The police suspect that the woman must have been killed in the wee hours of Saturday. Further investigations are on. **ENS**

Petrol bombs thrown inside B'gavi GP office

Belagavi: Miscreants attempted to burn down the gram panchayat office at Kalkhamb village in Belagavi taluk by throwing petrol bombs late on Friday night. Table and chairs were burnt, but office documents were not destroyed in the fire. According to locals, Chikkodi MP Priyanka Jarkiholi visited the village on Friday for the first time after becoming an MP to kick-start developmental works. "There are two groups in the village. One group had invited her for the programme and planned to felicitate her. While the other group demanded that Priyanka should also visit Valmiki Galli of the village. There was a verbal clash between the two groups over this matter. Priyanka had only attended the programme arranged by the panchayat office, and the other group, who wanted to felicitate her in their area, were angry over this, and thus they might have vandalised the gram panchayat office," the villagers suspected. "There might be some connection between this dispute and the vandalising of the panchayat building, they opined. Marihal police visited the spot and registered a case. **ENS**

WESTERN RAILWAY
Material Management Department
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/63/2024 Date 07.11.2024

S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
716	Axle box helical spring for Air spring	511 Nos	05-Dec-24
717	Set of 1500 AMP Capacity	10 Set	09-Dec-24
718	Overhauling KIT for check VALVE to KBI	2292 Set	10-Dec-24
719	Set of Battery Boxes	50 Set	10-Dec-24
720	Flex ball cable complete set	90 Nos	12-Dec-24
	REVERSE AUCTION		
60	Combination SEJ 60Kg/52Kg	235 Set	05-Dec-24
	CORRIGENDUM		

Please read the due date as "14-11-2024" for tender notice no. S/57/2024 dated 11.10.2024 at serial no. 55 of reverse auction

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in. 0716

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka (Constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India) has issued the Environmental Clearance to M/s. Universal Metro Properties LLP vide Letter No. SEIAA 40 CON 2021 dated 27/09/2022 for "The Proposed Expansion & Modification of Residential Apartment Project" at Sy. Nos. 176, 177 and 484, Bagalur Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. The Environmental Clearance issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka can be accessed at the web site https://parivesh.nic.in.

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

INDULGE
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AXIS BANK

Retail Lending and Payment Group (Local Office/Branch): Axis Bank Ltd, # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore – 560 027.
Axis Bank Ltd., 3rd Floor, Gigaplex, NPC – 1, TTC Industrial Area, Mugalsan Road, Airoli, Navi Mumbai – 400 708.
Registered Office: "Trishul", 3rd Floor Opp. Samartheshwar Temple Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad – 380006.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property is mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on **26th Nov 2024 for recovery of Rs.8,00,261/-** (Rupees Eight Lakh Two Hundred and Sixty One only) dues as on **20.10.2015 with future interest and costs due to the secured creditor from : Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** No. 31, 1st Floor, 20 G Street, Pearl Nursery Road, E G Pura Viveknagar Post, Bangalore–560047 Karnataka, India. **Also at: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** Senior Software Engineer, Motorola Mobility India Pvt Ltd, 66/1 Plot 5, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, Karnataka, India. **Also At: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** Site No 86, Sriven Serenity, Gutavanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli, Bangalore - 560 086 Karnataka, India, **Also At: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** S/o G A Mohammed, House No. 1016-4, JM Road, Right Side, Mudigere, Chickmangalor- 577132, Karnataka, India. Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details: -

KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES (IF ANY)	**Not known to the secured creditor. The unpaid charges towards electricity, maintenance, Tax etc. if any, as applicable**
RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	**Rs. 17,65,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Only)**
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.)	**Rs.1,76,500/-** (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Five Hundred Only) through DD/PO in favor of 'Axis Bank Ltd.' payable at Bangalore.
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	**Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only)**
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS / TENDER WITH EMD	**Till 25th Nov 2024 latest by 04:00 P.M. at Axis Bank Ltd,** # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore-560027, Addressed to Mr. Raghunath
DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION	**On 26th Nov 2024,** between **11.00 A.M and 12.00** Noon with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each at web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com e-auction tender documents containing e-auction bid form, declaration etc., are available in the website of the Service Provider as mentioned above.

DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY : SCHEDULE "A" : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy no. 12, measuring 8 acres, 36 Guntas, (converted vide official memorandum dated 18/6/2005, bearing No. ALN/SR(DE)113/2005-06, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Doddabalapura), situated at Guduvanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the : East by: Dodda Thatramangala Village Boundary, West by : Road, North by: Property bearing Sy no. 8 and 10 and Chikka Thatramangala Village, South by: Road and Property bearing Sy no. 4.
SCHEDULE "B" : All that piece and parcel of Residential vacant site bearing no. 86, Khata no. 81 in BIAAPA approved layout, known as "SRIVEN SERENITY", formed in the Schedule "A" property, situated at Guduvanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface measuring, East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, Totally measuring 1200 Sq feet. For Site bearing no. 86 and bounded on the: Site No. 86, East by: Road, West by: Site no. 81, North by: Site no. 85, South By: Site no. 87.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auction-retail and the Bank's approved service provider M/S C1 India Private Limited at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com
The auction will be conducted online through the Bank's approved service provider M/s.C1 India Private Limited at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com.
For any other assistance, the intending bidders may contact Mr. Raghunath at Axis Bank Ltd, # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore-560027 (Mobile No. 91- 919886960484, Email ID: raghunath1@axisbank.com).
This Notice should be considered as 15 Days' Notice to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Guarantors under Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Date : 08.11.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
AXIS BANK LTD.,

Indian Overseas Bank
ISRO View Branch (1061), 3274, 11th Main Road, Hal 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru-560008, Karnataka. E-mail ID: iob1061@iob.in
Contact: P.Chandra Kumar, AGM, Mob: 8925951061/9382236156/ Tel: 080-22950145, 22950146, 022950147

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** has **taken possession** of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on, **AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS** for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal **https://ebkray.in**

Name & address of the Borrowers:- 1. Mr. V.Sathyanarayanan, S/o Mr. Vishwanath, 38/2, 1st Main Road, Mount Joy Extension, Hanumantha Nagar, Bangalore-560019.

Date of NPA: 26-02-2021 **Date of Demand notice: 18-06-2021**

Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.33,51,128/- as on with further interest & costs.

Date of possession notice: 08-09-2021

Dues claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.33,98,628.06 as on 08-09-2021 with further interest & costs less repayments, if any, made after issuance of demand notice.

Outstanding dues as on 07-11-2024 is Rs.33,20,371/- plus undebited interest **Rs.6,12,453.06** with further interest & costs till the date of repayment in full.

***Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc.): Not known**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:-

SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY:- All that piece and parcel of site bearing Nos.5&6, Old Khatha No.2, present BBMP Khatha No.680/685/2/5/6,situated at Bikasipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, BBMP Ward No.197, Vasanthapura, Bengaluru; measuring East to West; on the Northern side 57 Feet Southern Side: 60 Feet, North to South; on the Eastern side 60 feet and on the Western side: 95 Feet in all 4533.75 Sq.Ft and **bounded on the: East by:** Site No.5, **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Vasanthapura Road, **South by:** Private Property.

SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:- All that piece and parcel of Two Bed Room, Residential Flat No.203, Constructed on the 1st Floor of the Schedule 'A' property, together with 272 sq.ft of undivided right, title and interest in the land, with a Super Built Up area measuring 1150 Sq.Ft, constructed in the apartment building known as **'SIRI ANNEX'** walls constructed with cement and bricks, front door teak wood, remaining flush doors, steel windows, with vitrified titles flooring and provided with all civic amenities and together with single open Car parking space in the stilt floor and with proportionate share in the common areas, entrances, staircases, passages, corridors, lifts etc., provided in Schedule 'A' property.
The property is in the name of **V.Satyanarayana.**

Latitude, Longitude & Co-ordinates: 12.894863 N 77.555282 E

The reserve price and the earnest money deposit is:

Sr. No.	Security Details	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid Increase Amt
1	Immovable Property as mentioned above	Rs. 42,00,000/-	Rs. 4,20,000/-	Rs. 50,000/-

Date & Time of auction: 26-11-2024, 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM

Bid increase amount: Rs.50,000/- **Auto extension time: 10 minutes**

Known Encumbrance if any: NIL

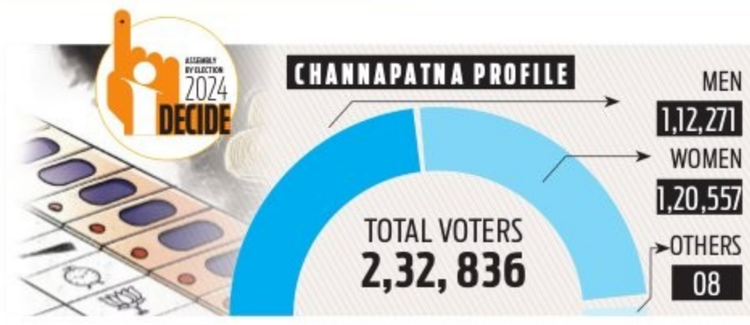
Inspection Date & Time: during office hours from 10:00 AM till 05:00 PM, from 08-11-2024 to 25-11-2024.

***Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues**
For terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx https://www.publishtenders.gov.in , https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/bidder-registration** (web portal of e-auction Service provider)

Date: 09-11-2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi has accused the Congress State Government of misguiding people over the Waqf land issue. Joshi said Congress leaders never provide clarity on matters but only try to confuse people, which is in the party's DNA



THE CHANNAPATNA ACT: WHEN 2 ACTORS FIGHT, WHO WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Channapatna

NESTLED between the state capital Bengaluru and cultural capital Mysuru, Channapatna, the Land of Toys, has a long history of intense political battles. Come November 13, two actors-turned-politicians — the NDA's Nikhil Kumaraswamy and Congress' CP Yogeshwara — will fight it out in the Vokkaliga-dominated Channapatna Assembly constituency.

The bypoll here was necessitated by the election of JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy to the Lok Sabha in May this year.

While the DK brothers want to avenge the loss they tasted in the Lok Sabha polls, Kumaraswamy, who is now a Union Minister, is sweating it out to ensure that his son Nikhil is lucky the third time, having lost an Assembly and Lok Sabha election each.

The New Sunday Express travelled to the constituency to study the political pulse of voters in Channapatna.

"Both Yogeshwara and Nikhil are strong... I will vote as per my conscience," said Devaramma, a 72-year-old vegetable vendor in Channapatna town. Manu, a flower vendor, too, echoed her sentiments.

The contest, which looked one-sided in favour of Yogeshwara till a week ago, is turning out to be a cliffhanger. Political observers said the strategy adopted by Kumaraswamy seems to be working and may have titled the balance. Kumaraswamy has managed to polarise Vokkaligas to a major extent in favour of his son Nikhil as former PM and the latter's grandfather HD Deve Gowda, despite being 92 years old, campaigned extensively and evoked emotions among the voting public.

Kumaraswamy has also struck at the AHINDA votebank and the traditional votebase of Yogeshwara. The backward Tigala, Urs and Besta (fishermen) communities have always backed Yogeshwara, despite him switching parties several times. Now, a small portion of them are inclined towards Nikhil, analysed a JDS insider. "We are traditionally JDS supporters and will back Nikhil," said Basavaraj Urs of AV Agrahara. "But the majority of the Urs community still supports Yogeshwara, as he was with the community for a long time and also helped us," asserts Srinivas Raj Urs, a shopkeeper at Honganuru, where a state-of-the-art Urs community hall has come up, which is now sheltering the paramilitary forces.

JDS leaders Vishkantaiah and Nagaraju, both Tigalas from Kannidoddi, expressed concern over their community's youth from BJP continuing to follow Yogeshwara. "We will try to convince them," they said. A shepherd from the community, Doddaiah, hinted that the community will decide at the last minute whether to vote for Nikhil or Yogeshwara enmasse.

Gunamma, a traditional JDS voter, and Jayamma, a Congress supporter, confirmed that two installments of money promised under the Gruha Lakshmi guarantee scheme are yet to reach them. "If there are four voters in a family, two will back Nikhil and two Yogeshwara," Gunamma said with Jayamma nodding.

Mahesh, a Tigala farmer in AV Palya, said Yogeshwara is his favourite. Venkataiah, a Besta, recalled Yogeshwara's initiative to fill tanks, which has been the politician's main talking point.

Deve Gowda claiming credit for the Iggaluru barrage has not had an impact among middle-aged farmers, who say it was Yogeshwara's project. Similarly, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar's influence on the Urs community is not up to the expectations for NDA, a political expert said.

At Honganuru, a section of Dalits feel let down by Yogeshwara as they think he took them for granted as traditional Congress voters and did not attend to their grievances, especially during a dispute over temple land. Dalit votes may split, despite Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa, a strong leader from the community, campaigning for Yogeshwara.

JDS has roped in over 1,000 Muslim youth for campaigning, but their families feel let down and hope that they will come back to Congress once the community heads come out with their message. Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, who was instrumental in Yogeshwara joining Congress, too could arrive to clear the mess in the constituency, which has a large Muslim population, a community leader said.

The stakes are high for both DK Shivakumar, DyCM and state Congress president, and Kumaraswamy to reign as the top Vokkaliga leader. But Pradeep of Kodipura and Nanje Gowda of Vitalenagalli said campaigning by Deve Gowda, being a supreme Vokkaliga leader, is likely to help Nikhil.

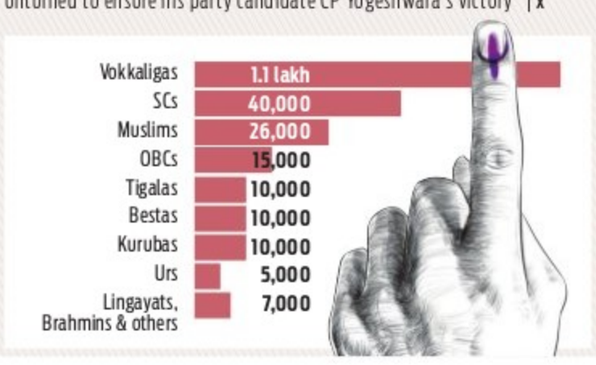
A team of 150 Congress officebearers has camped in the constituency and is reporting directly to Shivakumar.

The canvassing saw Nikhil breaking down and the Congress calling it a political gimmick.

Now, all eyes are on November 23 — the counting day — to know who has the last laugh.

Former PM and JDS patriach HD Deve Gowda has been extensively campaigning for his grandson and NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy in Channapatna | x

DyCM and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar is leaving no stone unturned to ensure his party candidate CP Yogeshwara's victory | x



POLL RING

Voters will think beyond caste, vote for devpt: Yogeshwara

WITH the bypoll just three days away, what is your gut feeling?
It is in my favour because there is an aversion against Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy as he did not deliver the goods during his term as CM.

Former PM HD Deve Gowda is a Vokkaliga stalwart. Won't the community stand by him?
He plays the caste card only during elections. But I am there for the community all the time. I have respect for him. But in public life, people will not accept his stand. His is family interest, and mine is public interest.

Gowda claims credit for Iggaluru dam. What is your take on it?
He (Gowda) is in no way connected to Iggaluru barrage. He had no idea at all. It is all a cock-and-bull story. When he was the PM, the local people called him and named it after him. That's about it. But I found the source for the dam from the Cauvery and Sattegala project, a similar one, has been commissioned. When DV Sadananda Gowda was CM, I got the project approved, and Siddaramaiah as CM released the funds. No one government can claim credit for the project. I have evidence of Gowda saying the pipelines will get removed after the Cauvery Water Tribunal verdict.

Nikhil is trying to gain sympathy after losing two back-to-back polls...
By losing polls elsewhere (Mandya in 2019 and Ramanagara in 2023), he (Nikhil) cannot use it in his favour in Channapatna.

If you had contested as an independent or as a BJP candidate, would it have been easy for you?
Maybe. But the voting pattern changed in my favour as the people understood why I joined Congress.

Kumarswamy is wooing all communities. What is your take?
He was at it... but ultimately the people will vote for me thinking beyond caste lines for the work I had delivered in the past.

Will DyCM DK Shivakumar become CM if you win?
My win will strengthen Congress and also the hands of DK Shivakumar. It is up to the Congress high command to decide over the CM post. My factor helped BJP's Dr CN Manjunath win Bengaluru Rural LS seat in 2024, and now I will be with Shivakumar in his future endeavours.

Lost past elections because of Congress conspiracy: Nikhil

HOW is the response from the people?
My morale has got a boost with people from all sections, including women and youth, reaching out to me. The NDA tie up between JDS and BJP has worked as workers of both parties are working in tandem for my win.

DK Shivakumar and his brother DK Suresh have claimed they have given the ticket to Yogeshwara, to whom NDA rejected the ticket after taking his help...
Channapatna is HD Kumaraswamy's own constituency. BJP had made him (Yogeshwara) an MLC, and we had offered him the JDS ticket and we were also ready to let him contest on a BJP ticket. But he joined Congress. People will decide his political future.

Do you feel the Gowda family is being targeted?
Congress has not contributed to the constituency's development. Three-time Bangalore Rural MP DK Suresh has nothing to his credit and that is why is targeting my family. But during my entire campaign, I speeches were on issues and HD Kumaraswamy's contribution to the region.

Yogeshwara says HD Deve Gowda has nothing to do with the implementation of the Iggaluru barrage. What is your take?
A picture of Deve Gowda making the spot inspection has been released on social media. Hats off to the person who treasured that picture, which is evidence for Gowda's key role.

You are being branded an outsider by your rival Yogeshwara...
My grandfather and family have over a four-decade relationship with Ramanagara district, including Channapatna, and have contributed immensely. It is a trick played to divide the electorate. It will fail. Didn't my father win the seat twice?

Why should people elect you?
I have lost two polls because of Congress' conspiracy. People will give me an opportunity to serve them, and I will prove them right by generating employment for the youth. In Mandya, Kumaraswamy held a job mela in which 1,200 candidates got offer letters. As a union minister for steel and industries, my father has a plan to set up an industry between Ramanagara and Channapatna.

No guarantee Cong govt will complete full term: Gowda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Prime Minister and JDS patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Saturday said that there is no guarantee that the Congress government in Karnataka will complete its full term.

On his fifth consecutive day of campaigning for his grandson and Channapatna NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy, Gowda addressed several rallies.

"One of the five guarantees has collapsed and other guarantees will not sustain long enough. There is no guarantee that even this government will complete its full term," he said.

Hitting out at the Congress leaders, the former PM said that in Congress, there is no politician who has the morality to stand in front of him. Gowda also slammed the I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders. "Is there any leader in their alliance who can become the PM? Can Stalin or Mamata Banerjee become the PM?" he questioned.

Gowda assured the voters that they would fight in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to make the Mekedaatu project a reality. He also promised voters that he would ensure that the Kadugollas and Bestha communities are included in the Scheduled Castes list. He appealed to the voters of Channapatna to strengthen PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy by supporting Nikhil in the November 13 bypolls.

Former DyCM and BJP leader Dr CN Ashwath Narayan lauded Gowda's contributions to development and irrigation projects in Karnataka.

Waqf issue needs deft handling, not rabble-rousing

MOST political issues have a shelf life. They peak during elections and taper off soon after that. However, the Waqf land controversy, which has raised a political storm in Karnataka and created ripples in other poll-bound states, is unlike others. If the allegations made by the BJP leaders and claims by farmers are anything to go by, this could have serious repercussions on people who are apprehensive about losing their properties as well as on the social fabric.

In the run-up to the November 13 bypolls to three assembly segments in Karnataka, and fiercely fought assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, leaders from Congress, BJP, and other political parties are engaged in a bitter political slugfest over the Waqf Board's notices to farmers and changes in the land records. Beyond elections, the issue could have far-reaching consequences.

When the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 was proposed by the NDA government in August this year, the Congress-led opposition termed it as "vendetta politics" against minorities. However, the aggressive stance by the state government and Waqf board put Congress on the back foot and weakened its larger strategy to oppose the Bill at the national level.

As the notices about land records left several farmers aggrieved, it also raised questions if the Congress and its government's attitude had emboldened officials to go overboard with their actions. In some cases, changes were made in land records without even issuing notices.

While the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 is looking into the amendments to the law, on its part, the State Government had not anticipated such a backlash to its aggressive measures. Now, after farmers started expressing concerns and opposition BJP raised the matter in Karnataka and other states, the Siddaramaiah government has gone into a damage control mode.

Although it announced that the notices served to farmers would be withdrawn and no genuine landowners would be evicted, new cases of people noticing changes in land records are coming to light from many parts of the state.

As JPC Chairman Jagadambika Pal put it, complaints were pouring in from many districts and there was a 38% increase in issuing of notices in the last two months after the parliamentary committee was formed.

Pal, who visited Karnataka earlier this week to meet the aggrieved persons, also claimed that modifications to the land records could not have been done without the complicity of state officials.

The state government criticized the JPC chief's visit, terming it an attempt to mislead people. Purely going by the procedural aspects of the functioning of the JPC, its chief's visit to the state to meet aggrieved persons may be unusual. However, since Karnataka has become the epicentre of the controversy, one has to consider its possible impact on the JPC's exercise. The committee will soon be submitting its report.

Karnataka Minister for Housing, Minority Welfare and Waqf, BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, and his department may be asserting the provisions of the law to deliver benefits to the community. Of the 1.08 lakh acres of Waqf property, nearly 85,000 acres have been encroached, the minister claimed during a Waqf Adalat in Kalaburgi.

However, some Congress legislators were of the view that the entire episode should have been handled in a better manner. There was no need to adopt such an aggressive stance that could create animosity between the communities. If the notices had also been served during the BJP rule, the government should have exposed it, instead of unnecessarily getting involved in the controversy that could damage its prospects, they felt.

As the elections come to a close in the next few days, the state government must urgently take the initiative to resolve the issue by taking into confidence all parties concerned — including the aggrieved farmers, property owners and opposition parties.

Not just the Waqf land controversy, Congress was also caught on the wrong foot in a debate over the state government's guarantee schemes. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly directed the state leaders not to create confusion about the schemes, which lent an opportunity to BJP leaders to hit out at Congress.

At times, it seems as if Congress has a knack for getting itself into avoidable controversies!

Cong functionary slaps minister at pvt ceremony

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

AN alleged attack on a Karnataka minister by a Congress leader at a private function held in Mysuru is doing the rounds amid political circles.

Though no complaint has been filed or video taken, sources said the minister arrived at a hotel to attend an engagement ceremony organised by an elected representative.

The minister came across the leader, spoke to him in a lighter vein and touched his head. Suddenly an enraged Congress leader slapped the minister, shocking the people around, the sources said. Both the minister and the leader have known each other for many years and worked together in Janata Dal and Congress now.

The minister's supporters and others left the place without creating ruckus to avoid public attention. When *The New Sunday Express* contacted a few congress leaders, they downplayed it, saying it was just for fun.

But Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy alleged that the minister and Congress leader clashed over a transfer row. During his election campaigning in Channapatna, he told media persons that the slapgate was over sharing the booty. "If a minister is attacked, where is this state heading to," he asked.

A 45-year-old man on Saturday murdered his wife and five-year-old daughter, and attempted to take his own life following a domestic quarrel in Tamil Nadu's Karur. The man, who has been booked for murder, is undergoing medical treatment, the police said

Centre to launch collateral-free loan schemes for MSMEs: FM

Sitharaman reveals plans for SIDBI branches in every MSME cluster

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Union Government will provide up to Rs 100 crore collateral-free loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under a new special credit guarantee scheme, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced, highlighting that the move is in response to long-standing challenges in securing funding, especially for term loans required for plant and machinery.

The FM also revealed plans for SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) to establish branches in every MSME cluster across the country within the next two to three years, with about 25 new branches coming up this year. "The expansion is to help reduce the cost of loans by eliminating intermediary lending through public sector banks," she mentioned.

During the event, she inaugurated eight SIDBI branches virtually and visited Sai Ram Engineering, an MSME in Peenya Industrial Area which specialises manufacturing Down-The-Hole (DTH) hammers, hammer cases, and related components. "This initiative is designed to ensure that MSMEs do not need third-party guarantees or collateral to access these loans, making it easier for small businesses to expand and grow," the minister said.

Dr Chenraj Roychand, principal of Jain University, presents a memento to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Sitharaman emphasised the government's commitment to supporting every state and MSME, with particular focus on Karnataka, which has 35 lakh MSMEs contributing 1.65 crore jobs.

FM reviews RRBs

Nirmala Sitharaman also reviewed the performance of 10 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) from the Southern Region in Bengaluru. The review covered RRBs in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Puducherry.

The Union Minister also highlighted the crucial role of sponsor banks in providing technical support, sharing best practices, and ensuring that RRBs have the necessary resources for success.

'Govt focusing on creating tangible assets'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SITHARAMAN pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shifted the focus from women-centric to women-led policies, promoting greater opportunities for them in all sectors.

Referring to the banking sector's transformation through technology, she said Jan Dhan Yojana was launched in 2014 in this direction. Such initiatives laid the foundation for financial inclusion, ensuring every citizen access to banking services. "The framework became invaluable during the pandemic, providing direct benefit transfers and other financial services seamlessly," she added. The Centre ensured that common users faced no service charges for accessing digital platforms. This democratisation of financial technology enabled even micro-businesses to reach global markets, she said.

On fiscal discipline, Sitharaman said it is crucial to understand that it involves managing public funds effectively.

WAQF ROW

BJP team meets farmer, expresses solidarity

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @Haveri

A BJP team, led by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, met the farmer, whose son had committed suicide allegedly over converting their farmland into a Waqf property, at Arungeri of Haveri district on Saturday. The delegation not only assured the family to be part of their struggle, but demanded the state government to return the land to the family.

The issue of the alleged suicide of the farmer, Rudrappa Balikai, is snowballing into a controversy with the deceased's father, Channappa, meeting with Jagadambika Pal, chairman, Joint Parliamentary Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024 recently. Thereafter, the Haveri police filed an FIR against Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, who is also a JPC member, and editors of local digital platforms.

Against this backdrop, the BJP delegation comprising former union minister G M Siddeshwar, MP Govind Karjol, former minister Murugesh Nirani, MLC Ravi Kumar and others met Channappa at his residence.

Pralhad Joshi with farmer Channappa at Arungeri village in Haveri district | EXPRESS

> According to the SC ruling, the Waqf property should only be recognised if there are official documents for approval, purchase, and donations. In this context, the CM should issue a strict order
>
> Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister

The delegation noted that Channappa's family had held 5 acres since 1964, but it was converted into Waqf property without bringing it to the notice of the family, and taken into possession removing crop in 2015. The family has been fighting a losing battle and in the middle lost an earning member of the family, the BJP team added.

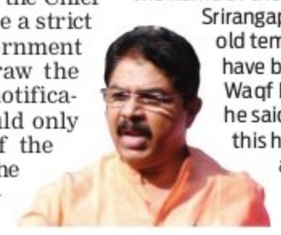
Joshi expressed displeasure over the state government using the police to suppress protests against Waqf encroachments. He said tahsildars and other officials have been issuing notices, despite the CM's instructions to stop.

He charged that Siddaramaiah has only given oral instruction but not issued written orders in this regard till now.

According to the Supreme Court's ruling, the BJP leader noted, that Wakf property should only be recognised if there are official documents for approval, purchase, and donations. In this context, the Chief Minister should issue a strict order. Also, the government should first withdraw the 1974 Wakf Gazette notification. The party would only call off its protest if the government cancels the Wakf Gazette notification, he asserted.

Ashoka: Revenue dept wants khata changed

Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka alleged that though CM Siddaramaiah has claimed that he had directed officials to withdraw Waqf Board notices to farmers, the Revenue Department has on November 7 sought a report on progress made in changing the land records. Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, the BJP leader said the Revenue Department has sought action taken report in 21,767 cases of changing Khata (land record). Ashoka said in the letter the Revenue Department officials have stated that though they had sought the information earlier, it was not provided. "This is a U-turn government," he said. The BJP leader said records of farmers' lands cultivated for hundreds of years have also been changed in the name of the Waqf Board. In Srirangapatna, a 400-year-old temple and a school have been converted as Waqf Board properties, he said and added that this has created apprehension among people across the state.



EXPRESS READ

83-yr-old walks 3 km to collect pension, dies

Jeypore: An 83-year-old woman of Banshaput village under Bandhugaon block in Koraput district died on Saturday morning, hours after she walked three kilometres to a bank to collect her old age pension. On Friday, she had apparently gone to the bank to find out if her monthly pension has been deposited. After her reaching home, the 83-year-old fell sick and she collapsed in the wee hours of the day.

Nijalingappa's house put up for sale

ENS @Bengaluru

THE family of former chief minister and AICC president S Nijalingappa has put up for sale the Congress icon's bungalow, 'Vinaya,' next to the deputy commissioner's bungalow in the heart of the city.

Nijalingappa's son Kiran Shankar said that the house, constructed in 1937 when Nijalingappa was an advocate, will be sold for Rs 10 crore. The property spread across 5,000 sqft of land.

The bungalow has come up in the open market after the family's attempts to sell it to the state government to convert it into a museum failed. Kiran had offered to sell it for Rs 5 crore to the government, but the district administration raised doubts over the unregistered will left behind by the former CM, scuttling the sale.

Former MLC and a close associate of Nijalingappa, Mohan Kumar Kondajji, said, "The then Deputy Commissioner Kavitha Mannikeri initiated a process to purchase the house and had obtained the legal opinion on the unregistered will. But the then sub-registrar, who was not properly informed, stopped the deal, and Nijalingappa's grandson Vinay Kiranshankar Siddavvanahalli, who had flown in from the United States went back. After that, the family decided not to sell the property to the government."

The Nijalingappa family has been waiting for the last four years for the sale to come through with the government.

36 get 250 sites under 50:50 MUDA scheme

MYSURU: A list of beneficiaries, who have got 250 sites under the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) 50:50 scheme, is doing the rounds on social media. The list includes 13 sites to a housing society and six to Cathedral Society. Thirty-four individuals have got 192 sites. Some of the beneficiaries are Abdul Wasid (26 sites), Syed Yusuf (21), Mahadev (12), Malappa (19), Sureshamma (11), Venkatappa (17), Devanna (16) and Viramudi (7). BJP MLA TS Srivatsa said MUDA should cancel plans approved for any construction in any of these sites.

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development,
Division, Shivamogga-577204.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS KW-4

Dated:07.11.2024. **IFT No.: 11/2024-25.**

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Standard Bid Document KW-4 through kpp-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the 01 works coming under M.I sub-divisions Tarikere amounting from Rs. 161.20 lakhs. Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 08.11.2024 to 19.11.2024 upto 17:00 hours.. Tender opening date at 17.15 hrs on 20.11.2024. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D. Division,
Shimoga-577204.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/24-25/32/11/995

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
(A Scheduled Bank established by Government of India;
Sponsored by : Canara Bank) Regional Office : **MYSURU**
No. CA-20, Vijayanagar 2nd State, Mysore - 570017. Email : br2501@kgbk.in

DEMAND NOTICE
(SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT-2002)

At the request, Bank has extended credit facility to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its below mentioned Branch as under. The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of the title deeds Simple mortgage are also furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives / guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice dated as mentioned below sent by register post AD calling upon you, to pay the outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of the notice failing which the Bank will proceed against the below mentioned property under the Act was unserved / not acknowledged, this notice is now issued

TK LAYOUT BRANCH

Name of the Borrower : 1. Sri. Manoj Kumar .V (Borrower & Mortgagor), S/o. Swamy Gupta, # 1105, Nandideepa Apartments, Kammanahalli Main Road, SOS Village Post, Bangalore-560076.

Loan Limit in 36,80,000	Liability : 58,39,653.38

NPA Date: 27.03.2020 **Demand Notice Date: 23.09.2024**

Description of Property: Property is held in the name of Sri. Manoj Kumar .V, Property No.10, New No. 1500/59(Built on site No-8), Flat No. T-01, East to West : 29 ft., North to South : 30 ft. Super built up area measuring 1250 Sq. Ft, along with covered Car parking space on the Land described in schedule "A"., together with undivided right of 454 Sq.ft., T-01, Situated at 3rd Floor of the building known as "PRATHAM MAYUR", Krishnarajavanam, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru. **bounded on the : East by :** Set back, **West by :** Flat No. T-02, **North by :** Main Road, **South by :** Ramp.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13. you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date: 23.09.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Place: Mysore **Karnataka Gramin Bank**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

TO: **SMT. BENGALUR SELVI** (99910) HOUSE KEEPER CUM OFFICE ASSISTANT, BENGALURU HENNUR ROAD BRANCH BENGALURU. MOB: 9449521663

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: NO. 14/3/1, HUTCHINS ROAD, NEAR CHARLES BUS STOP, ST THOMAS TOWN, LINGARAJAPURAM, BENGALURU 560084

YOUR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM DUTIES
REF: BLRN: HRM: 99910: 1: 2024 DATED 28-06-2024 BLRN: HRM: 99910: 2: 2024 DATED 09-08-2024 BLRN: HRM: 99910: 3: 2024 DATED 10-09-2024

We are informed that you are remaining on unauthorised absence from duties since 07-03-2024 without information/prior permission/proper sanction. Further, it is also observed that you are in the habit of abstaining from the duties since your joining the Bank on 17-11-2014.

You should be aware that remaining absent without any information/prior permission/proper sanction from the Competent Authority amounts to violation of Leave rules. Vide our above cited letters, we had instructed you to submit your reply and also to report back for duties immediately. We had addressed the above letters to the last known address as per our records, however the letters were returned for the reason **"ADDRESSEE NOT FOUND".** We have also tried to reach you over phone on your registered mobile number in HRMS - 9449521663. However, we note that you have neither reported back for duties nor have you submitted any reply in this regard.

This notice is hereby issued under the provisions of Head Office Circular 157/2005 dated 20-06-2005 and your above action of not attending duty from 07-03-2024 has disrupted the smooth functioning of the Bank. Remaining absent frequently/ proceeding on leave without prior permission/ sanction is a violation of leave rules.

As such, we are giving you one **FINAL** chance to report back for duties by 15-11-2024 failing which we shall be initiating further steps in terms of HO circular 157/2005 dated 20-06-2005 regarding **VOLUNTARY CESSATION OF EMPLOYMENT.**

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
PLACE: CIRCLE OFFICE, BENGALURU DATE: 10-11-2024

SOUTH INDIAN Bank
CIN: L65191KL1929PLC001017

Regional Office: SIB Arcade, #61, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Bangalore – 560 005. Tel./ Fax No: +91 80-25479091 / 92
E-mail: **ro1010@sib.co.in.**
Website: **www.southindianbank.com**

RO-BNGL/491/Sale/SH/174/2024-25 **Date:08.11.2024**

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)&9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower/guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the South Indian Bank Ltd, Branch Bangalore - Marathahalli (Secured Creditor), the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "as is where is" basis, "as is what is" and "whatever there is" condition on 18.12.2024 for recovery of an amount of **Rs.29,17,211.04 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred Eleven and paisa four Only)** as on **07.11.2024** with future interest, costs and expenses etc. thereon due to The South Indian Bank Limited, Branch Marathahalli (Secured Creditor), from the above mentioned Borrower(s) **1.Mrs. Kruthika N R** No. 162, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Talacauvery Layout, Amruthahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560092 Also at 31, 1st Cross, GKW Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560040 Also at 38/39, 5th Cross, Hoodi Layout, Amruthahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka –560092 2. Mr. Sukesh S No. 162, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Talacauvery Layout, Amruthahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560092 Also at. 31, 1st Cross, GKW Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560040 Also at 38/39, 5th Cross, Hoodi Layout, Amruthahalli, Bangalore, Karnataka –560092.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Flat No. S-1, (2BHK) on second floor in the building known as "Annapurna Clusters" in Site No. 162 in the layout formed by Talacauvery House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., named as Talacauvery Nagar having a super built up area of 1150 Sq. ft along with one covered car parking space on stilt floor together with 1/4th equivalent 300 Sq. ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in the land constructed on property bearing site no.162, Khata No. 1492/746/162, formed out of Sy.Nos. 5/1, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 5/5, 7, 9/1, 9/2, 10/4, 11/1, 11/2, 11/3, 11/4, 11/5, 11/6, 12/1, 12/2, 12/3 & 12/4 presently coming under the jurisdiction of Ward No.7 of BBMP limits, along with all other constructions, improvements, easementary rights existing and appurtenant thereon, situated at Amruthahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, and owned by Mrs. Kruthika NR, more fully described in Gift Deed No. 6173/2019-20 dated 06-11-2019 of SRO, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore and Rectification deed no. 6477/2019-20 dt 18-11-2019 of SRO Gandhinagar(Byatarayanapura) bounded on North: Site No. 149, East: Site No. 163, South: 2nd B Main Road, West: Site No. 161 Security Interest created by Mrs. Kruthika NR.

Reserve Price	**Reserve PriceRs.64,95,000 /- (Rupees Sixty Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.6,49,500/-** (Rupees Six Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only) EMD shall be deposited on or before 17.12.2024 by 04.00 PM
Bid Increment amount	**Rs.10,000.00** (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)
Date and time of E-auction	**18.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM (with 5 minute unlimited auto extensions till sale is concluded)**
Encumbrances known to the Bank	Nil/ Encumbrances

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in web portal of South Indian Bank Ltd, (Secured Creditor) website i.e. **www.southindianbank.com.** Details also available at **https://bankauctions.in.** For any further clarification with regards to inspection of property, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of bids, kindly contact South Indian Bank Ltd on **9740866232.**

Date : 08.11.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Place : Bangalore **The South Indian Bank Ltd.**

GOVERNEMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) (e-Procurement]
Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-11/2024-25
B-591 **No. 3811 // Dated : 07.11.2024**

1) The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover systemin **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of Road works as detailed in the table below.
2) Nature of work : Road Works
3) No. of work : 03 Nos.
4) Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (online)
5) Class of Contractor : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the Website : From 12.11.2024 10.00 AM to 26.11.2024 5.30 PM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 27.11.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
9) Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/- (Ashis Kumar Nayak)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C),
Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-34103/11/0013/2425

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Bengaluru South End Circle Branch,
96, South End Road, South End Circle, Bengaluru- 560004
Email: cb1173@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditors, the **possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 12.12.2024 from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** [with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of sale], for recovery of **Rs. 4,47,39,669.92/-** (Rupees Four crores forty seven lakhs thirty nine thousand six hundred sixty nine and Paise Ninety two Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.11.2024 and other expenses due to Canara Bank from **M/S ZEN BUILDING SOLUTIONS PVT LTD.**

Full description of the immovable property, Reserve Price, EMD, known Encumbrance(s), Outstanding Dues if any are as under:-

DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY(IES)

(Rs.in lacs)

Lot	Description of the Immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	Apartment bearing Flat No. F-3, First Floor, Southern Portion, "SANTRUPTHI" apartment, Loacted in Property bearing Municipal No.15, Old No. 268, PID NO. 51-30-15/2, Situated at 10th cross, 4th Main, NR Colony, Banagalore South Taluk, Bangalore- 560019, East : Corridor, West : Pearl Apartment, North : Staircase and lift, South : Road.	73.76	7.37	1.00
2	Apartment bearing Flat No. G-1, Ground Floor, Southern Portion, "SANTRUPTHI" apartment, Loacted in Property bearing Municipal No.15, Old No. 268, PID NO. 51-30-15/2, Situated at 10th cross, 4th Main, NR Colony, Banagalore South Taluk, Bangalore- 560019, East : Corridor, West : Pearl Apartment, North : Private Property South : Staircase	73.76	7.37	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not known to Bank.
The EMD should be deposited on or before 11.12.2024 up to 4.00 pm
The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/ provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e www.canarabank.com. or may contact **Chief Manager, South end Circle Branch, Bangalore, Ph. No. 9483531173, 080- 26651852,** during office hours on any working day.

Sd/-
Place: Bangalore Authorised Officer
Date: 08.11.2024 Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my clients have agreed to take purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: Smt.Jayamma, W/o late V.R.Shivaram, Smt.Mamatha.S., Sri.Thippeswamy.S., Sri.Raghu.V., all children of late V.R.Shivaram, and Smt.Shivarudramma, W/o late Hanumanthappa, Sri.Devanatha & Sri.Mohan both sons of late Hanumanthappa, residing at Aimangala Village, Aimangala Hobli, Hiriyur Taluk.

Apart from the said owners, if any person/s have any right, title, interest or claim over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, are hereby called upon to file their objection/s or claims with the undersigned (along with the photocopies of the documents based on which they rely for asserting their rights), within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.50/1 measuring 23 Acres and 29 Guntas, situated at Aimangala Village, Aimangala Hobli, Hiriyuru Taluk and bounded on:

East by : National Highway No.4, Bangalore-Poona Highway
West by : Land bearing Sy.No.51 and 42
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.52
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.46

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MANDYA-571401
Phone:- 08232-226749 Fax:-08232-221617
Toll Free No - 1800-4253795
Website: www.mandvacity.mrc.gov.in Loch
Email: itstaff_ulb_mandya@yahoo.co.in
NO.CMC/Mandya/AEE(Envi)/CR/01/2024-25
Date:-07-11-2024

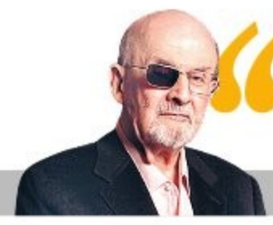
Retender Notification
Through The Government Of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 project fund and other government grants, Retender has been invited for below works at Kalenahalli Municipal Solid Waste Disposal site, through the Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka under the Document KW-4 as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Directions 1999-2000 Act 2000. Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through the e-portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

(1) Bio-Remediation/ Bio Mining of Legacy waste disposal work Indent No: DMA/2023- 24/OW/WORK INDENT152/CALL-4, Amount Put to Tender: Rs 607.05 Lakh, E.M.D. :- Rs 9.11 Lakh
(2) Construction of 35 TPD Material Recovery Facility of PEB Structure No DMA/2024- 25 BD WORK INDENT21730/CALL-2, Amount Put to Tender :- Rs 284.00 Lakh, E.M.D :- Rs 4.26 Lakh
Last Date and Time for submission of Tender:- 09-12-2024 Up to 05.00 PM. Further details can be obtained from the website www.kppp.karntaka.gov.in and from this office during office timings. Any amendments/ addendums will be published on the portal only

Sd/-Municipal Commissioner
CMC Mandya.

DIPR/AD/MDY-423/2024-25



"Language is courage: the ability to conceive a thought, to speak it, and by doing so to make it true" — Salman Rushdie

D Y CHANDRACHUD: AN UNFORGETTABLE LEGACY ON BALANCE

OPINION
KALEESWARAM RAJ
Lawyer,
Supreme Court of India
(kaleeswaramraj@gmail.com)

IT'S said if one wants to be remembered, one must either write something worth reading or do something worth writing about. Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud did both. Over the last decade, I have appeared before several chief justices of the Supreme Court; yet, Justice Chandrachud's is the legacy worth writing about.

He led probably the biggest revolution in the Indian judiciary post independence—the e-courts system that has expanded access to justice to a considerable extent. Chandrachud's pivotal role in the process—first as chairman of the committee overseeing its implementation and later as chief justice—was radical and crucial. He modernised and decentralised the judiciary in such a way that it now has the potential to fight plutocracy.

He was a democrat on the bench who tried to treat every lawyer equally and encouraged even the 'ordinary' ones. He was soft in his manners and honoured the research lawyers painstakingly do. I felt this when I argued for the petitioner in the *Joseph Shine* (2018) case before a Constitution bench, which led to the decriminalisation of adultery in India.

Justice Chandrachud was always hard-working. By one count, he wrote 93 judgements as chief justice—a record that's possibly unbreakable. During his eight years in the Supreme Court, he wrote a total of 613 judgements.

Language is the light of the mind, said John Stuart Mill. And legal language is the light of an analytical intellect. Chandrachud had an effective language—simple, yet beautiful and powerful. He enjoyed the art of writing judgements. Those who unsuccessfully try to imitate the linguistic felicity of Justice V R Krishna Iyer with dictionary support should learn from the outgoing chief justice. He was a man of original thoughts that he articulated in a straightforward prose his own.

He wrote eloquently in defence of privacy in the *Puttaswamy* (2017) case. Decriminalisation of consensual same-sex relations in *Navtej Singh Johar* (2018) was another milestone. However, when it came to *Supriyo* (2023), his refusal to endorse same-sex marriage invited critiques from those who pleaded for it. In *Davinder Singh* (2024), the majority on the bench, speaking through Chief Justice Chandrachud, validated the sub-classification of communities for the purpose of reservation.

Constitutional socialism has been a contested idea in Indian judicial parlance. It's no wonder the Chief Justice Chandrachud's judgement in the *Property Owners Association* (2024) case has ignited an ideological debate on and off the bench. He disagreed with the socialist view on the Constitution's Article 39(b) evolved by Justice Krishna Iyer in *Ranganatha Reddy* (1977) and pleaded for "economic democracy". There could be two views on this. Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia's defence of Krishna Iyer's view in the same judgement, by way of dissent, marks the quality of intellectual deliberation on the topic.

A three-Judge bench headed by Chandrachud upheld the validity of the UP Madarsa Act. In the Aligarh Muslim University case, the majority view authored by Chandrachud overturned the verdict in *Azeez Basha* (1967) that had posed the twin requirement of a minority community establishing and administering an institution to be able to claim minority status. The liberal view in the judgement, delivered on his last working day, said it's enough if an institution is established by a minority community. In *MediaOne* (2023), he upheld the freedom of expression and directed the ban on the television channel to be lifted.

However, views might vary on the conclusions in some of Chandrachud's judgements. Many support his views in *M Siddiq vs Mahant Suresh Das* (2019), popularly known as Ayodhya case, while many others oppose them. I have serious reservations about the conclusions. The verdict on electoral bonds in the *Association for Democratic Reforms* (2024) case has been significant, though it refused to reopen and investigate the secret deals political parties purportedly made for bond purchases.

By the time the case on Kashmir's special status was decided, it became almost impossible to turn the clock back. Even then, a bad precedent that might enable the Centre to take away statehood in an abrupt way could have been avoided. Likewise, failure to fix a time limit for the restoration of statehood, by blindly relying on the Centre's assurance, was a serious error.

Justice Chandrachud trod a tough path during a difficult phase of majoritarianism. There could be criticism that he was less assertive than required on some occasions. The collegium's decisions on judicial appointments were often meddled with by a recalcitrant executive, which could not be countered by the court. More importantly, as the master of the roster, CJI Chandrachud failed to effectively prevent the prolonged incarceration of political prisoners, which led to tragic results.

At the end, the Chandrachud legacy embodies some marvelous achievements on one hand, and some glaring aberrations on the other. However, as a judge who battled for transparency in private and public life, and as a man who tried to redefine India's judicial imagination, his innings will be unforgettable.

Aristotle laid the foundations of biology. Will Durant, who in *The Story of Philosophy* told us that Aristotle also made some egregious errors, concluded, "Aristotle makes as many mistakes as possible for a man who is founding the science of biology." The same approach is justifiable in the case of a chief justice who tried to change the foundations of Indian judicial reality.

MODI & TRUMP: MADE FOR EACH OTHER

POWER & POLITICS
PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IF any world leader is as loved as he is hated, it is Donald Trump, elected 47th president of the US. His tenacious twin is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who shares his values of patriotism, traditionalism and national identity. Trump is abhorred by the leftist media, Hollywood latitudinarians and European liberals. Modi is lambasted by the Lutyens' Lilliputians and secularism's near-extinct conscience cavaliers for his aggressive nationalism. Both Trump and Modi are cults that dominate the New World Order.

Americans voted for Trump's unapologetic stand on illegal immigration and putting his country first. His tough stand on Palestine and threats to deport terror-supporting students made him a pugnacious political pugilist.

Both Modi and he were political parvenus. Modi swore to bring down Delhi's drawing-room caucus, while Trump vowed to drain Washington's political swamp. The billionaire real estate developer may be America's oldest president, but has the energy of a rampaging Rambo. Modi's PMO calls the shots as he has centralised power to enforce his mission and vision. Both men are ultimate outsiders, though Trump had a privileged upbringing and an Ivy League education; Modi sold tea.

Modi's victory in 2014 and Trump's in 2024 symbolise the acceptability of leaders with absolutist agendas, the empowering of patriotism and a natural affinity with authoritarians. The two are separated by 12,000 km, but are conjoined by conviction. Both are bigger than their parties. Both swear by the constitution but find enough loopholes to garner more power than what the book provides. They surround themselves with 'bezzies' who tell them what they want to hear. Both want to shine solo, centre-stage. Both want to deliver maximum governance through minimum government. The similarities are uncanny.

● **Nationalism and patriotism**: In January, Trump will stride into the White House for a second term, pumped on 'Make America Great Again' steroids. He convinced voters that the idea of a United America was in jeopardy. MAGA weaned away many Democrats. With signature Trumpjokes, sneers and insults on the vote-hatching trail, he warned supporters and fence-sitters that if the Dems returned to power, the US would lose its global primacy. During his 2016 campaign, Trump championed US nationalism. He threatened to cut funds to NATO since he believed it served European interests more than America's. His vote-athon is almost similar to Modi's in 2013. Surakshit Bharat was Modi's ultimate weapon to unite a divided India. He vowed to punish Pakistan and abrogate Article 370 to remove the constitutional weakness that gave Jammu and Kashmir a separate identity.

PTI

● **Anti-immigration**: The Republican triumph owes much to Trump's opposition to illegal immigration. Rabid rhetoric reaffirmed his warning, "A vote for Kamala Harris means 40 or 50 million more illegal aliens will invade across our borders, stealing your money, stealing your jobs, stealing your life." While seeking his party's nomination, Trump posted on *Truth Social*: "Illegal immigration is poisoning the blood of our nation. They're coming from prisons, from mental institutions—from all over the world." In *Mein Kampf*, Adolf Hitler used the term "blood poisoning" to excoriate Jews; Trump critics lambasted him for using the phrase to mean immigrants envenoming America's bloodstream.

Modi consistently hammered a similar sentiment during his 2014 campaign about the danger of illegal immigrants creating cultural anarchy, and law and order disruptions. Even during the current state assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Modi has charged the Congress and regional parties for encouraging illegal flow of people from across the borders for bolstering their prospects.

● **Cultural cohesion**: Both Modi and Trump are strong votaries of protecting the way of life of their nations. In 2017, *Politico Magazine* called Trump "the culture war president" and quoted *The New York Times*: "President Donald Trump is a war president of a different sort: a culture war president." The *NYT* reported this week, "In private, the president and his top aides freely admit that he is engaged in a culture war on behalf of his white, working-class base... against 'politically correct' coastal elites... He believes the war was foisted upon him by former President Barack Obama and other Democrats—and he is determined to win." By polling over half the popular vote, the Don has won the culture war.

Modi is relentlessly fighting to restore what he deems the Hindu way of life to reinforce the superiority of '*Bharatiyata*' over other faiths. Under his leadership and nudge, not only have BJP-led state governments renamed old cities, but they have revived old Hindu and tribal shrines that were vanishing fast.

● **Restricted capitalism**: Trump was born and brought up as a businessman. Modi's business savvy is synchronous with his birthplace's ethos. He frankly admitted after becoming the prime minister: "I am a Gujarati and Gujaratis know how to do business."

Trump has been talking about lowering taxes and trimming the government. Modi is the only PM to have brought down the corporate tax to 25 percent for Indian firms. Modi calls entrepreneurs wealth creators and pushes his government to ensure ease of doing business.

● **Anti-China and pro-Israel**: Ideologically and personally, neither Trump nor Modi trusts China. Trump has threatened to impose a 60 percent customs hike on Chinese imports and had banned many Chinese companies. India's China-phobia stems from geographical alarm, since it has been squatting on our territory since 1962. Israel is another uniting factor. Trump recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital, while Modi was the first Indian PM to visit Israel.

Both also hate student activism: Trump threatens to deport the keffiyeh crowd occupying American campuses, while Modi has firmly quelled protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and in JNU.

The oxygen of modern politics is social media. Modi understands the Indian predilection for public dignity; hence his posts to his over 80 million followers are informative and explanatory, leaving the onslaughts to the IT Cell and furious fans. Trump is clued into America's in-your-face outrage and cancel culture; hence his posts are scathing. Trump was banned by Twitter for abusive tweets, though with 80 million followers, he was leading the social media war.

Such commonalities have made Modi and Trump friends. Modi is the only Indian PM who met Trump eight times in four years. At the Howdy Modi event in Texas and Namaste Trump in Ahmedabad, the connection was obvious. Trump was invited to join Modi's Texas rally, where the PM paraphrased a BJP slogan by cheering, "*Abki baar*, Trump *sarkar*."

Though Trump lost in 2019, he fought on despite impeachments, penalties, loss of iconic real estate, convictions and judicial confrontations. The TV reality show that made Donald Trump a household name was *The Apprentice*. Going by popular validation, neither Modi nor Trump are political apprentices. They are heroes to the nationalist masses who are rewriting history by confining liberal apologia to the trashcan of history.

HOW TO BE ON TOP OF THE GAME

OPINION
GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author, most recently of
The Spell of the Rain Tree

VIDEO games came to India decades ago—to the delight of children and despair of parents. Since then, it has consistently won fans across ages, thanks to evolving technologies. The size of the global gaming industry is estimated at about ₹29 lakh core—bigger than the movie and music industries. The Indian gaming industry, with a user base of around 450 million, was valued at ₹33,000 crore in 2023. Surely, we have come a long way.

With better technology and faster access, gaming's sphere of influence has widened beyond entertainment. It has great potential for productive use, as it promotes strategic thinking and encourages problem-solving. Sandbox gaming allows players to explore and modify the game environment, fostering creativity. Developers have introduced nuances like conflict resolution beyond combat and winner-takes-it-all scenarios.

Gaming is also being considered an art form, integrating storytelling, graphics and music. Unlike social media platforms, which have a built-in possibility of doom scrolling, gaming is interactive. Gamers find themselves in an intrinsic learning loop. Players before a screen have heightened levels of attention and concentration, which could be harnessed to promote learning.

Using a gaming avatar is a form of role play. It could be used to reinforce responsible behavioural patterns. Exposure to challenges facilitates agility in responses. Features such as rules, goals, interaction and feedback, integrated into learning pedagogies, have proved valuable in skilling. Games are being used to teach language, economics and as a psychological research tool to observe responses.

Among the ingenious uses games have been put to is checking the spread of disinformation. During the pandemic, a game called '*Go Viral*' allowed players to debunk misleading information about Covid. As financial scams are increasing, a game that teaches people to scan scammers and remain unscathed would be hugely welcome.

The power of games is that they are immersive experiences that can evoke deep emotions and involve deeper engagement. What makes games stand out from other media is that they offer players the agency to influence outcomes through their choices.

Innovations in animation, artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality technologies are improving game design. Further use of blockchain and generative AI can enable other kinds of experiences.

The industry has immense potential for growth in India considering the demographics, high-speed internet, tech talent and digital fluency available. With strategic investment and regulatory support, it is projected to reach revenues of ₹66,000 crore by 2028 and provide for 2 lakh jobs. The increased number of startups in gaming and e-sports is expected to be the drivers of this growth.

Along with funding, they would benefit from training of fresh talent and research facilities. The proposed national centre of excellence for animation, visual effects, gaming, comics and extended reality in Mumbai, approved by the central government, could play a pivotal role in leveraging Indian cultural heritage and generating patents. Creation of narratives that align with traditions of the country can help branding and be an effective statement of Indian soft power.

Video games stand out from other media because they offer players agency to influence outcomes. Such immersive experiences are being used to teach subjects and debunk misinformation. Given the right kind of support, it can do wonders in India too

Real-money gaming is a significant component of the Indian industry. It offers a bouquet of formats on various online platforms. The earnings are subject to GST and income tax. However, regulators have flagged the potential for misuse of these platforms due to lack of customer details and use of bots.

There is also a risk of money laundering when cross-border jurisdictions are involved through the use of the dark web or virtual networks to evade tax laws and perpetrate fraud. Effective enforcement is needed to ensure a level playing field and a transparent, secure environment for gamers. For now, a voluntary code of ethics has been curated by online gaming entities as a step to self-regulation.

The danger of exposure to violence, particularly for young players, is present as games can stimulate aggression and recklessness in real life. Addiction to games has been classified as a mental health disorder by the WHO. This is where the role of content regulation and built-in safeguards by gaming platforms to restrict excessive user access comes in. Age-appropriate grading of games and parental monitoring are vital. There has also been a demand for a data protection law that will ensure mandatory parental consent for children under 18 to access gaming platforms.

A theory of simulation says the universe and its inhabitants are part of a gigantic video game, as seen in *The Matrix*. Whatever the possibility of that, it's undeniable that the evolving metaverse has engulfed us. It has diverse potential beyond mere entertainment and presents a valuable economic opportunity for India. So it makes sense not just to join the game, but to be on top of it.

QUOTE CORNER

Dear fellow citizens, I would have liked to have spared you this difficult decision, especially in times like these, when uncertainty is growing... All too often, minister Lindner has blocked laws in an inappropriate manner. Too often he has broken my trust.

Olaf Scholz, German chancellor, announcing the sacking of finance minister Christian Lindner, an act that has pushed Europe's largest economy towards mid-term elections

Gone is a genocidal president too hypocritical to admit it. In comes a genocidal president who wears it like a badge of honour.

Ghassan Abu Sitta, British-Palestinian surgeon and Rector of the University of Glasgow

India and its leadership shall be held responsible for the catastrophic and adverse situation that will arise out of the violent armed conflict between India and Nagalim.

Thuingaleng Muivah, chief of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), accusing New Delhi of reneging on their 2015 framework pact for peace in the region

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Interdependent economies

Ref: *Pragmatic business sense should trump US tariff threat* (Nov 9). The global economy operates on interdependence, with numerous US industries depending on imported resources. While tariffs can serve as a negotiating tool, the long-term considerations are vital. Building partnerships with allies can strengthen negotiating power and address challenges such as unfair trade practices.

N R Jagannath, Bengaluru

Economic democracy

The article should be eye-opening for politicians as well as the common public. Unrest would start if all the people in the country are not treated equally at least as far as their basic needs are concerned, if internal peace is not ensured and if there isn't growth for everyone. I strongly accept the opinion that our country needs economic democracy.

Dasari Yella Reddy, Vayalpad

Trillion-dollar question

Ref: *It's time for economic democracy* (Nov 9). Other than throwing around the forecast of achieving a $5-trillion economy, there is no roadmap indicating the efforts the government is taking to achieve it. The article is right: India, with its population, will achieve the number at some point even without any effort from the government. The Modi government thinks that by distributing free rations to 60 percent of the population it has taken care of the ballooning unemployment and economic health.

Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Targeted policies

Reforms often aim to bridge economic disparities, but can disproportionately benefit the elite, who have greater influence and access. Without targeted measures such as robust social safety nets, equitable access to education, and mechanisms to curb wealth concentration, the gap between the rich and the poor will widen. True reform requires policies designed to uplift marginalised communities.

Narayanan Kizhumundayur, Thrissur

Minority status

The Supreme Court on Friday lifted the ban on the Aligarh Muslim University's claim of a minority institution, though the issue has been left to a regular bench to decide. Special rights for all in religious education can be welcomed. But what is the difference in the contents or gains from general or technical education between minorities and the majority? Let us wait to have equality among all citizens.

P R V Raja, Pandalam

Bold departure

Ref: *Ratan Tata, a leader who empowered a generation of dreamers* (Nov 9). The prime minister's write-up on Ratan Tata is significant as a bold departure from the hangover of Nehruvian Fabian socialism. That the head of the government feels bold enough to openly appreciate a great departed doyen of Indian industry and the head of a big corporate empire was unthinkable in yesteryears for the fear of being labelled anti-poor. Salute to the departed great soul indeed.

Ullattil Pakiteeri Raghunathan, Thrissur

Blackcaps' whitewash

The recent drubbing of the Indian team at the hands of the Kiwi Blackcaps has put the spotlight back on workload management in cricket. The time allows for constructive criticism of the team. But at the same time, the immature decision of team selectors on resting seasoned cricketers and completely relying on young guards is a decision too early to be taken up. Given the allure of white-ball cricket, it's time for the cricket board to be laser-focused on the players' workload and ensure a balance.

Rohit Srivastava, Ballia

Samosa scrutiny

The case of samosas meant for the Himachal Pradesh chief minister being eaten by subordinates is rather interesting. Though the CM has tried to downplay the episode, it cannot be ignored as the state CID has ordered a probe. The matter needs to be investigated as it concerns the integrity of officials as well as the failure of the objective of getting expensive samosas from a 5-star hotel.

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

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POSTS OF THE DAY

JP Nadda @JPNadda
Hemant Soren's government is a government of scamsters. They cheated and deceived the people in the name of false promises.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Demonetisation is the most corrupt event in the economic history of the world. None of the bogus targets set at the time of demonetisation were achieved.

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
Manu had divided the society into four castes, BJP and RSS have always been promoting the same concept. They want the rule of Manusmriti instead of the Constitution.

Bail delay a breach of basic rights: SC

Says even a single day's delay in deciding bail plea affects fundamental rights of the people

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

CRITICISING the practice of courts keeping bail applications pending for years, the Supreme Court, in a recent order, said that even a single day's delay in deciding such matters adversely affects the fundamental rights of citizens under the Indian Constitution.

The apex court has time and again emphasised the importance of personal liberty, said a two-judge bench of the top court, led by Justice BR Gavai and also comprising Justice V Viswanathan.

"It has been observed by this court that even a single day's delay in deciding the bail application adversely affects the fundamental rights of the citizens," the court said in an order passed on Friday.

"We do not appreciate the practice of keeping bail application pending for years together," it added.

The top court's observation came after hearing a plea filed by an accused man, who claimed that his bail application was pending before the Allahabad High Court since August last year and there was no progress in the matter.

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for petitioner Wazid, submitted that though his matter is pending since August 1, 2023 before the Allahabad High Court, there has been no progress.

The matter is adjourned on a day-to-day basis without any effective hearing, Dave submitted before the bench.

"My bail application is pending since last August. My liberty and my freedom are at a stake. The courts should hear, and especially the top court should consider my prayers and grant me bail," pleaded the petition filed before the top court.

"The matter was adjourned repeatedly before the Allahabad High Court without any effective hearing," it said.

The bench, which expressed its displeasure after hearing the petitioner's counsel, also stressed that it has been informed that the matter was posted for hearing before the high court on November 11.

"... We request the concerned court or judge, before whom the matter is placed, to take up the matter on the same date (November 11), and decide it as expeditiously as possible. In any case, (decide the matter) within a period of two weeks from November 11, 2024," the bench said, while disposing of the petition.

The bench passed its order on November 8, 2024.

The apex court had time and again made it clear in its orders that bail is the norm and jail is the exception.

"The investigation can go against the accused. But his liberty could not be curtailed, in spite of the fact that even if he or she is accused of criminal offences," the court had observed earlier.

"Granting bail is the right of an accused person guaranteed under the Indian Constitution," it had said in another instance.

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Kerala PSC rapped for volte-face on stance

The Supreme Court has recently criticised the Kerala Public Service Commission for resorting to "falsehood" and making a volte-face regarding its stand on the eligibility criteria for candidates to the post of Lower Division Clerk in the Kerala Water Authority.

"A state instrumentality seized of the solemn responsibility of making selections to public services must maintain a high standard of probity and transparency and is not expected to remain nebulous as to its norms, or resort to falsehoods before the court, contrary to what it had stated in its earlier sworn affidavits," a two-judge bench of the apex court, led by Justice PS Narasimha and also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar said.

DONALD TRUMP

'IT'LL BE NASTY A LITTLE BIT AT TIMES... BUT IT'S GOING TO BE SOMETHING'

TK VINEETH

"HE died like a dog," is not a phrase one would usually get to hear in the official speech of the US president. But, then, that's a Donald Trump delivery, straight from the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House. "He died after running into a dead-end tunnel, whimpering and crying and screaming all the way," was how the 45th president described the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the fugitive ISIS leader who blew himself up during a US military operation in Syria in 2019. No prizes for guessing whether the speech was scripted or the Don himself rewrote the original drab text into a sparkling copy, so to speak.

The transcript of Trump's spoken words, still available in the White House archives as a testimony to his chutzpah, illustrates the extent to which the businessman-turned-politician is ready to make a spectacle of himself, if it helps him connect with his supporters at a deeply personal level.

That attitude seems to have helped him 'bigly' in the hotly contested 2024 presidential election which dumbfounded every other poll forecaster. Not known to back down from a good fight, Trump had refused to accept defeat in 2019 to Joe Biden, alarming many. There were legitimate concerns that he might not concede defeat this time as well, if the results were the opposite. And that's what the opinion polls by most media outlets and traditional pollsters showed: that the poll was very tight; that his opponent Kamala Harris was leading by a narrow margin; and that he might lose again.

But Trump would have none of it and rubbished the polls with his characteristic disdain for legacy media, saying he's clearly winning by a comfortable margin. And that's exactly what it turned out to be, to the chagrin of his baiters, as he became the first former president in over 130 years to be re-elected after losing a term in between. Top boot, he won both the popular and Electoral College votes, staging one of the most stunning political comebacks in US history. The 4-million margin with which he won the popular vote is a feat no Republican can boast of since George HW Bush's 7-million vote lead in 1988.

Not just that, his Republican Party is set to possibly win control of both chambers of Congress, which will give them sweeping powers to ram through contentious agendas on tax and government spending cuts, tweaks in immigration policy, and de-regulating certain sectors to spur growth. A situation that can make even an always-serious Trump break into that rare smile of his.

That he won the 2024 race with the baggage of his tumultuous past presidency characterised by the dramatic exits and surprise firings of his aides, is a big boost to his ego that was hurt by past political and legal setbacks. He fought hard and turned the legal hurdles raised by his political opponents to stop him from coming back, into opportunities to deepen his connection with his existing fans and expand his support base.

The 2024 campaign was anything but ordinary. Trump used every tool in the book, and outside of it, to counter his opponents who flagged his colourful history in a bid to discredit him. There were two reported attempts to assassinate him; he narrowly escaped the first one, with the bullet grazing his ear and bloodying his face. Trump being Trump, he never lost an opportunity to communicate with the people, dog whistling that their potential president was being targeted. He turned their inchoate anger into righteous indignation, which would reflect in the ballots. He was ably helped by his new ally the formidable billionaire Elon Musk, who turned his own social media platform X into a digital media vehicle to promote Trumpisms. That kind of media ubiquity, where people feel like they are connected to a big personality, helped Trump keep his supporters engaged and excited.

In his previous stint as president and the four years afterwards, Trump courted controversy after controversy winning many dubious distinctions, including that of a convicted felon. While in office, he was impeached twice. After he left the White House, he went on to become the first former US president to be convicted of a crime when a New York state jury found him guilty of falsifying business records to hide a hush-money payment he made in 2016, to kill a sex scandal. Trump still faces criminal charges relating to interfering with the 2016 presidential election, though the proceedings are in the process of being frozen in view of the change in circumstances. His supporters expect Trump to shake up the Department of Justice. Trump has on record said that he would fire special counsel Jack Smith, who brought two federal indictments against him, "within two seconds" of being sworn in as President. Probably sensing unnecessary trouble, the prosecutor himself has moved a request to the judge overseeing Trump's federal election interference case to pause the proceedings in view of the DoJ's policy that sitting presidents can't be prosecuted. The pause is seen as the first step towards ending the prosecution.

NEWSMAKER

Will Trump 2.0 be better or at least any different than last time? His supporters have been promised "four greatest years in Ame rican history". As Trump put it, "You watch, it's going to be so good, it's going to be so much fun. It'll be nasty a little bit at times, and may be at the beginning, in particular, but it's going to be something."

Trump fans can't wait for his inauguration in January to experience the golden days, while the world watches in earnest interest.

Trump can't change. As he picks his A team, there is a sense of relief that at least the people around are likely to be suave.

BJP's 2-front fight: Assembly polls, naming new party chief

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

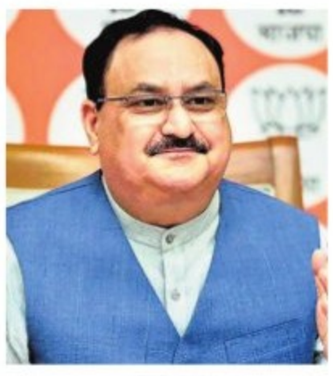
THE BJP is busy managing election battles on two fronts: First is the Assembly polls in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, the second is the election of the new party chief. The central leadership is learnt to have expedited the organisational process, and may spring a surprise in picking a candidate for the party president.

The appointment of the new BJP president through organisational elections is expected to take place in the second or third week of January 2025.

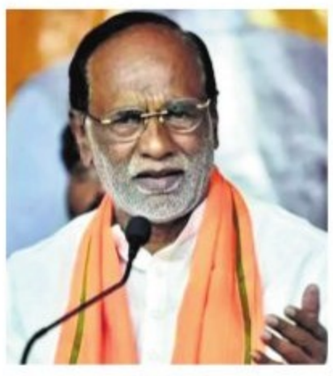
A meeting on the party's presidential election is due on November 20 at the BJP headquarters. It will bring together senior leaders and office-bearers from the central election committee. The discussions, party sources said, will set the stage for the presidential election, where the successor to JP Nadda will be decided.

Following the November 20 meeting, the BJP will conduct a workshop on November 22 for its office-bearers and active members. This workshop will include national and state-level office-bearers and party general secretaries. These meetings and workshops are thought to be crucial in shaping the process leading up to the election of the new party chief.

The November 20 meeting is scheduled days before the results of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly elections.



JP Nadda



K Laxman

This will be followed by a national workshop at the party headquarters on November 22. Almost all senior leaders of the central organisation, including home minister Amit Shah and the incumbent party chief JP Nadda, will attend the two meetings, sources said.

The November 22 meeting will include around 125 party office-bearers, and will see an extensive discussion on the election process for the new president, including preliminary deliberations about the potential candidates. However, a senior party leader hinted that the BJP might surprise everyone with its candidate selection for the national president's post. "The selection will send a strong pan-India message," said a party leader, suggesting that a woman candidate, possibly from the OBC or SC communities, may be under consideration.

Adding pace to the process, the party has already appointed K Laxman as the national election officer, with three co-election officers to assist him in overseeing the election process. Laxman is the national president of the party's OBC Morcha and a member of the party's central election committee.

After his appointment as the national election officer for the party's presidential polls, Laxman has formed the appeals committee, with senior BJP leader Radha Mohan Singh as its convener, and Vijaypal Singh Tomar, Sanjay Bhatia, and Gajendra Patel as co-conveners. The committee's role is to ensure the integrity of the election process, preventing any irregularities.

Cong says it is committed to nationwide caste survey

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER PM Modi's scathing attack on Congress for playing caste politics, the party asserted on Saturday that a nationwide caste survey and the lifting of the Supreme Court's "arbitrary ceiling" of 50 per cent on quota for SCs, STs and OBCs are central to its vision for the country.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said that its government in Telangana will begin its caste survey on Saturday. He said 80,000 enumerators will be going door-to-door over the next few weeks, covering over 1.17 crore households across 33 districts.

This is the first time a caste-based survey is being conducted by the government in Telangana since 1931, Ramesh said.

"It is a historic, revolutionary moment — one that is a realisation of the Telangana Movement's aspirations for the state and a fulfilment of one of the key ideals of the Constitution," Ramesh said.

It is also, as Rahul Gandhi noted in Hyderabad earlier this week, a blueprint for the national caste survey that the INDIA coalition's government will conduct, he said.

"We are committed to the idea of social, political and economic justice, as laid out in our Constitution," he said.

4-point fillip to urban poverty alleviation mission

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Centre has prepared a four-level administrative framework for successful implementation of "new urban poverty alleviation mission" aimed at "appreciable improvement" in the livelihoods of vulnerable groups within the informal sector such as construction workers, gig workers, waste workers, care workers, domestic workers, and transportation workers. The three-month pilot project, on the lines of National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) launched last month, is underway in 25 cities.

The secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is the chairman of the national level — advisory and review committee — and the joint secretary heads the directorate of National Mission, which is supported by the National Mission Management Unit.

The unit comprises 14 mission managers, including a team leader. They are supported by other staff; community resource persons and community supervisors besides state, district and city level administrators. Similarly, in states, there is a high power committee chaired by the chief secretary, district level panel is headed by district commissioner and in cities, urban level bodies committee's chairperson is the municipal commissioner or executive officer.

PILOT PROJECT
FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION
The urban poverty alleviation mission aims to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in informal sector such as construction workers, gig workers, waste workers, care workers, domestic workers and transportation workers.
OBJECTIVES
Strengthening grassroots-level community institutions
Promoting employment opportunities
Providing social security and entitlements
Creating social infrastructure
Fostering innovation and collaboration
The three month pilot project is underway in 25 CITIES
Priority to inclusion of women as a focus target group and expansion of benefits to those engaged in vulnerable occupations
Mission managers to ensure the objectives are met efficiently
Support staff to offer operational assistance through data collection, reporting, feedback, tracking progress and making necessary adjustments

The workers engaged in precarious jobs with low wages, hazardous conditions, and limited access to social protection will be the primary beneficiaries of the new scheme. A pilot spanning over three months was launched on October 1 to ensure effective implementation in 25 cities; industrial hubs, migrant centres, aspirational districts, and port towns.

The officials said that the mission managers would serve as the backbone of the initiative, driving its core activities and facilitating 'meaningful change' in the lives of the communities of the urban poor. "Their responsibilities span a wide range of crucial areas, including community mobilisation, facilitating financial linkages, enterprise development, and capacity building of the beneficiaries...The Mission Managers will provide strategic leadership, ensuring the Mission's objectives are met efficiently. They will work closely with the frontline facilitators — the Mission Executives, community supervisors, and CRPs to implement activities on the ground, including linking communities with financial institutions, promoting entrepreneurship, and securing access to social security entitlements for the underserved populations," said officials.

Under the Mission — aligned to the sustainable development goals and to deal with critical challenges faced by urban poor — the focus is on vulnerable groups, often marginalised within the broader labour market.

Out of 19 key positions, 10 lying vacant in NMC for months, shows RTI reply

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE National Medical Commission (NMC), which regulates medical education and professionals, is yet to fill key positions vacant for several months, reveals a reply to an RTI application.

In the reply given on October 24, the Union health ministry said the "appointment to various posts in NMC is under process." RTI activist KV Babu, who filed the application on the NMC appointments delay, said the ministry gave the same reply in January this year.

Out of the 19 positions, 10 are vacant, including that of the president of two autonomous bodies, the ministry said, adding applications have been invited to fill the posts.

NMC, an autonomous body, has 33 members. Chairman Dr BN Gangadhar was appointed full-time in July after working as an officiating head since September last year. Apart from working as the officiating head, he also held the position of president of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB), which determines the procedure for rating medical institutions, carries out inspections, and grants permission to new medical institutions. While the MARB has a president and a part-time member, the other four positions need to be filled.

'Applications invited'

Out of the 19 positions, 10 are vacant, including that of the president of two autonomous bodies. The health ministry said applications have been invited to fill the posts. NMC, an autonomous body, has 33 members. Chairman Dr BN Gangadhar was appointed full-time in July after working as an officiating head since September last year.

Two of the five positions in the Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB), which determines the standards of medical education at the postgraduate and super-specialty levels, are vacant. Three out of five positions are vacant in the Undergraduate Medical Education Board. At present, it does not have a president and is run by two part-time members.

The Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) maintains national registers of all licensed medical practitioners, regulates their professional conduct, and promotes medical ethics. Of the five members of EMRB, three positions are vacant, including its president.

Kerala-based Babu said the ministry took more than a year to make some appointments. "Vacant positions that had to be filled in 2023 were filled this year," he said, adding the ministry invited applications for various posts in August, though the terms of many members were about to end on September 25.

BEEF SEIZED
Police seized beef from a house in Madhya Pradesh's Burhanpur and booked four persons, an official said on Saturday.

1 COP
KILLED 4 OTHERS HURT AFTER SUV OVERTURNS IN C'GARH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	23	Mumbai	33	28
Bhopal	33	18	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	36	24	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	36	18	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	27	05	Chandigarh	35	19

MAHA BATTLE: In Akola, PM cautions against 'loot' by grand old party ● Cong chief at a Nagpur rally tears into Adityanath's comments

Modi takes 'ATM for royal family' swipe at Cong ...

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that wherever a Congress government is formed, that state becomes the ATM of the party's 'shashi parivar' (royal family).

"We won't let Maharashtra become the ATM of Congress," Modi said, addressing a campaign rally in Akola for the November 20 assembly elections. "Wherever Congress forms government, that state becomes an ATM for the Congress' royal family. These days, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana have become their ATMs. In the name of elections in Maharashtra, they have looted ₹700 crore from liquor sellers in Karnataka. You can imagine the loot once they win the elections," Modi said.

"Congress is well aware that the more the country weakens, the more they will strengthen themselves. Congress creates a divide between various castes. It never let our castes unite. If our castes do not stay united and remain in conflict with each other, Congress will take advantage of it," he said. "Congress will take away the rights of SCs. This is their conspiracy and character. You have to stay united. Remember, 'Ek hai toh safe hai," Modi added. He criticised the Congress's approach to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy. "I challenge the shahi parivar of Congress to prove if they ever visited Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's panchteerth," he said.

Congress is well aware that the more the country weakens, the more they will strengthen themselves. Congress creates a divide between various castes – Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Modi has coined the term panchteerth to denote Amedbkar birthplace in Mhow, the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK, Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism, his Mahaparinirvan Sthal' in Delhi, and Chaitya Bhoomi' in Mumbai.

People of Haryana foiled the conspiracy of Congress by following the Ek hai to safe hai' (we are safe if we are united) mantra, Modi said. "I have come to seek your blessings for the BJP-led Mahayuti," he said. On this day in 2019, the Supreme Court of the country gave its verdict on Ram Temple. This date of November 9 will also be remembered because after the decision of the Supreme Court, people of every religion showed great sensitivity, Modi said.

... Kharge hits back at BJP for its 'divisive pitch'

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

COUNTERING Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's 'batenge toh katenge' slogan, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Saturday that several leaders from his party, including Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, have laid down their lives to unite the country.

Addressing a press conference in Nagpur, Kharge asked the BJP to decide between Yogi's slogan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unity message of 'Ek hain, toh safe hain'. He also hit back at the BJP for criticising his party leader Rahul Gandhi over a copy of the Constitution with a red cover. He showed a picture of PM Modi gifting a similar copy to former President Ramnath Kovind.

The Congress chief accused the BJP and RSS of provoking people to gain votes. Citing a newspaper article, Kharge said he read that RSS favoured the slogan of 'batenge toh katenge' (if divided, we perish) being raised by the UP CM. "First, you decide between yourselves whose slogan is to be followed, ' Yogi ji's or Modi ji's," he said, adding, "BJP leaders give inciting speeches and speak lies and divert people's attention from core issues."

First, you decide between yourselves whose slogan is to be followed, ' Yogi ji's or Modi ji's. BJP leaders give inciting speeches and speak lies and divert people's attention from core issues

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

Kharge said two big leaders from Vidarbha did not stop big-ticket projects from being shifted from Maharashtra to Gujarat because they were concerned about "saving their own posts and not worried about people's interest". He was referring to Union minister Nitin Gadkari and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis who hail from Nagpur.

There is an MVA wave in Vidarbha, which elects 62 of the state's 288 MLAs, Kharge said and expressed confidence that the grouping comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) will win the assembly polls.

He dismissed the BJP's allegation that the Congress supports 'urban Naxals', particularly when their leader Rahul Gandhi keeps talking about saving the Constitution."Is it a crime to flaunt a copy of the Constitution with a red cover," he said, referring to Fadnavis's earlier allegation that Gandhi was building a coalition of anarchists. In many public meetings, Gandhi has waived a copy of the Constitution with a red cover.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

RLP chief faces BJP wrath over remarks

The by-elections to be held on seven seats in Rajasthan have now become interesting. On the famous Khinvsar seat, BJP leader Jyoti Mirdha has cornered Nagaur MP and RLP chief Beniwal over the objectionable statement made on Congress leader Divya Maderna. It is worth noting that Beniwal had contested the Lok Sabha elections in alliance with Congress. Whereas in the assembly by-election, Congress did not form an alliance with him and Beniwal has fielded his wife Kanika Beniwal.. Mirdha said that if he (Hanuman Beniwal) does not respect women at home, then what can people outside expect from him.

Sharma finds self in a fix after a slip during rally

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has once again found himself in the spotlight after a verbal slip during a recent election rally. Sharma mistakenly claimed that even Rahul Gandhi and his father couldn't remove Article 370 from Kashmir, sparking a viral reaction online, as BJP actively supports Article 370's removal. Quick to respond, Sharma corrected his statement with the media, but not before social media took notice. This isn't Sharma's first gaffe; he has been consistently making headlines with similar blunders since he has became CM.

Tiger attacks continue in Ranthambore

Tiger attacks continue to haunt Ranthambore National Park. Only recently, a tourist visiting the famous Trinetra Ganesh temple narrowly escaped a tiger attack, suffering a scratch on his hand. The culprit? A young cub of the tigress Arrowhead. The forest department quickly responded, deploying extra security for temple-goers and tourists. This incident follows a tragic attack on November 2, when a tiger killed a local man. Later, the villagers killed that tiger. Following this, when the department became alert about the safety of tigers, shockingly, an audit revealed 26 tigers are unaccounted for in the park, sparking a high-level search.

On UP bypoll campaign trail, Yogi seeks quota for SC/ST, OBC in AMU

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AMID the ongoing debate on the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University, especially, against the backdrop of Supreme Court's Friday order, UP CM Yogi Adityanath pitched in for the OBC reservation in the prestigious institution.

"There is a debate regarding minority status of Aligarh Muslim University. How can a Centre-funded university give 50% quota only to minorities. Besides OBCs, SC/ST aspirants should also get reservation in this institution," said the UP CM claiming that the Congress and SP are opposing it for the sake of minority votes.

"They have been messing around and cheating," he said on Saturday while addressing an election rally in Aligarh where the Khair assembly bypoll is due on November 20.

Addressing the gathering, CM Yogi said, "We gave a university in the name of Raja Mahendra Pratap, the king of Aligarh, whom the Congress had forgotten." CM Yogi said that a few days ago, Jammu and Kashmir assembly passed a resolution demanding the restoration of Article 370.

Dr BR Ambedkar did not want it to be included in the Constitution, but Pandit Nehru got it included. PM Modi decided to remove Article 370. Yogi said that J&K was heading on path of development. "But some powers are again at play trying to bring terrorism back in the land known as a paradise on earth. Certain powers are trying to make Kashmir communal."

'Trying to bring back terrorism'

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that J&K was heading to path of development. "But some powers are again at play trying to bring the menace of terrorism back in the land known as a paradise on earth. Certain powers are trying to make Kashmir communal." He also said it was trying every tactic to divide the society.

Bangla intruders to be thrown out of J'khand: Shah

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

CAMPAIGNING for the BJP in Hazaribagh in poll-bound Jharkhand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah vowed to deport all Bangladeshi intruders from the state if the party came to power in Jharkhand.

Shah charged the Congress with portioning out 10% reservation due to the ST, SC and OBCs for Muslims. "It is impossible as long as the Modi government is in power," he said. "The Modi government would never allow religion-based reservation," he said.

Shah also dared Rahul Gandhi that he would never be able to restore Article 370 in Kashmir.

"Recently, they (J&K Assembly) passed a resolution that they would reinstate Article 370 in J&K...I want to tell Rahul Baba and people like him that not only they but even their fourth generation will not be able to reinstate Article 370," said the Union Home Minister.

"The Hemant Soren government has not kept his promise of giving unemployment allowance to the youths. Elect a BJP government in Jharkhand, and every youth will get Rs 2,000 every month as an unemployment allowance," said Shah. A BJP government will also generate one lakh employment opportunities in Jharkhand if voted to power, he added.

The Union Home Minister also promised strict action against those who were involved in question paper leaks. Shah also held meetings in Palamu, Hazaribagh and Potka in Jharkhand on Saturday.

Soren retorts, says no need to answer every BJP query

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

RESPONDING to questions about Bangladeshi infiltration into Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said that he did not find it necessary to respond to every question raised by the Opposition, mainly the BJP.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, he said while BJP leaders could consider themselves "intellectually superior," his focus remains on addressing issues faced by the poor.

"These people are intellectuals and think that those who are poor and not so educated would believe what they are saying," said Soren. For him, it is more important to work on resolving challenges faced by impoverished communities, he added. Addressing questions about his potential to win the elections and form a government again, Soren avoided predictions. "I do not make forecasts, you might have better insight," he said, emphasizing his preference to stay focused on governance rather than speculative statements.

When asked about a BJP slogan, "If they are divided, they will be cut," Soren responded, "Na hum bate hain, na batenge, but chunav ke madhyam se rajniiti me kute zaroor jayenge," (they will neither be divided nor cut; instead, they will face a political defeat)," said Soren.

Soren also addressed the issue of employment in Jharkhand, promising to take personal responsibility for ensuring that pending government jobs in the state are filled. He said no conspiracy would prevent him from following through on his commitment to job creation and employment for the people of Jharkhand.

Canada axes popular student visa scheme

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IT may not be connected with the India-Canada diplomatic chill, but Ottawa has just announced the termination of its popular visa scheme for post-secondary students, called the Student Direct Stream (SDS).

The announcement is a big blow for prospective students from India. For context, more than three lakh students from India last year joined Canadian institutions mainly under the SDS stream.

Most of them were from Punjab. Students already in Canada waiting for enrolment under SDS are now in deep trouble.

SDS was popular because it simplified and expedited processing of study permit from select countries.

What would normally take an estimated eight weeks was processed within 20 days.

Launched in 2018 for post-secondary students, the SDS was open for over 10 nations, including India, Brazil, China and Pakistan.

Ram temple in Ayodhya may miss June deadline

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya, scheduled to be completed in June 2025, will take an additional three months' time to be fully ready. As a result, the temple is now expected to be fully functional by September 2025, according to Nripendra Mishra, the chairman of the construction committee.

After chairing the two-day meeting of the construction committee in temple town on Thursday and Friday, Mishra said there was shortage of 200 stone carvers, causing delay in the construction work, while structures like the auditorium, boundary, and circumambulation path are yet to be completed. Mishra said that 8.5 lakh cubic feet of red Bansi Paharpur stones would have to be used in the temple's outer wall. "The stones have arrived in Ayodhya but there is a shortage of carvers," he added. He also noted that some stones on the first floor appeared weak in density. "Those will be replaced with makrana marble and the work on first floor along with other portions is on."

The Temple Construction Committee chairman also shared with media persons that all the statues to be installed in different parts of the temple premises were under process in Jaipur and would be completed by December. "These include the statue of Ram Darbar, statues for seven temples on the premises, and statues for six temples on the outer wall.

"The statues will arrive in Ayodhya by December end. A decision will then be made on their placement. Two statues of Ram Lalla, already accepted by the Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Sthal Trust, will also be installed at pre-decided locations. There was a renewed discussion about making the Ram temple exit route more accessible.

Home truth: Temple theft cases surge in Gujarat

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IN Gujarat, a surge in burglaries is hitting not only homes left vacant during Diwali vacations but also temples, according to government data. Over the past three years, thieves have stolen a total of ₹4.93 crore in cash and valuables from temples across the state.

Gujarat reported 501 temple theft incidents: 151 temples were targeted in 2020-21, 178 in 2021-22, and 172 in 2022-23. In addition, there were five armed robberies in temples, intensifying concerns over temple security statewide.

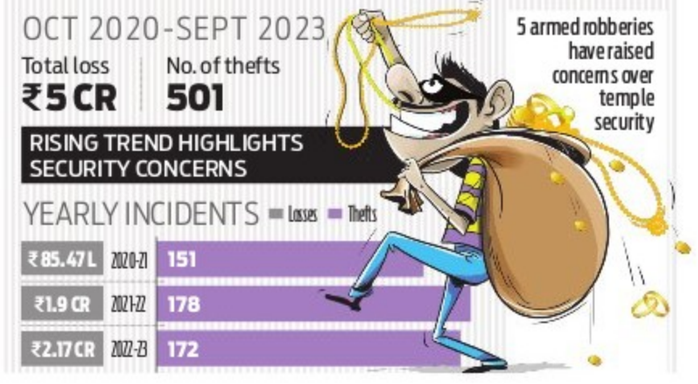
Gujarat Congress spokesperson Hiren Banker criticized the government, saying the incidents of looting and theft in temples, which hold deep significance for Gujaratis, are being met with little more than promises of CCTV installations by the home department.

"Is the BJP, which campaigns in God's name, only concerned with securing votes?" he asked. "Even during Navratri, incidents of assault on women occur and illegal activities like bootlegging and drug trade operate openly. The reality is the state police is facing a severe shortage of personnel, with the number of police personnel falling below the national average," Banker said.

Private residential homes too are the target. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Gujarat has witnessed a troubling surge in home burglaries and robberies over recent years, underscoring persistent challenges in crime prevention.

Nighttime burglaries have consistently overshadowed daytime incidents. In 2017, there were 3,957 burglaries reported at night, but by 2022, that number fell to 2,936.

Daytime burglaries also saw a decrease, from 440 cases in 2017 to 359 in 2022. However, the overall burglary rate per lakh population fluctuated, peaking at 6.9 in 2017, dropping to 3.9 in 2020, and rising again to 4.6 in 2022. Robberies showed a mixed pattern, with 1,277 cases in 2017, which dropped significantly to 498 in 2020, before stabilizing at around 575 cases in 2022.



Over the six-year period from 2017 to 2022, Gujarat recorded a total of 18,453 night burglaries, 2,489 day burglaries, and 5,428 robberies, reflecting ongoing security concerns for residents across the state. The state government at present controls 13 temples in Gandhinagar district,13 in Valsad district, eight in Rajkot district, 16 in Porbandar district, four of Surat district and one temple each in Junagadh, Surendranagar, Jamnagar, Mehsana and Banaskantha districts. These include the ancient temples at Somnath, Dwarkadhish and Akshardham. The security of the temples is a tricky task given the strength of the police force as well as encroachments around such places.

The Somnath temple in Veraval, Gujarat is one of the richest temples in India, with a net worth of around ₹100 crore: The Somnath temple in Gujarat is heavily protected by police and has a Z+ security grade. Non-Hindus need prior permission to enter the temple due to security concerns and to protect the sanctity of the religious place.

9 people stabbed over two days in the US city of Seattle

QATAR MAY ASK HAMAS TO SHUT ITS DOHA OFFICE

Displaced Palestinians check the damage following an Israeli strike that hit tents set up in the vicinity of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir el-Balah | AFP

DOHA

QATAR has withdrawn as a key mediator for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage deal and warned Hamas that its Doha office "no longer serves its purpose", a diplomatic source told AFP on Saturday.

Qatar, with the United Sates and Egypt, has been engaged in months of fruitless negotiations for a truce with a hostage and prisoner releases.

"The Qataris informed both the Israelis and Hamas that as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith, they cannot continue to mediate," the source said on condition of anonymity.

"As a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose," the source said.

The informed source said Qatar had already "notified both sides, Israel and Hamas as well as the US administration" of its decision. "The Qataris conveyed to the US administration that they would be ready to re-engage in mediation when both sides... demonstrate a sincere willingness to return to the table,"the source added.

Qatar, which is home to a major US military base, has hosted Hamas's political leadership since 2012 with Washington's blessing. During the talks after Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel last year, both Qatari and US officials indicated that the militant group would remain in Doha as long as its presence offered a viable channel of communication.

The diplomatic source said Saturday Qatar had "concluded that there is insufficient willingness from either side" to bridge gaps in negotiations.

A crucial hurdle has been Hamas's insistence that Israel withdraw completely from Gaza, which Israeli officials have repeatedly rejected.

The talks have become "more about politics and elections rather than a serious attempt to secure peace", the source said.

Now, Hamas may be asked to close its offices there, after Washington told Doha that allowing the militant Islamist group to have a base there is no longer acceptable.

A senior Hamas official in Doha told AFP that "we have not received any request to leave Qatar".

More than a year of war in Gaza has killed more than 43,000 people, Palestinian health officials say. They don't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but say more than half of those killed were women and children. *Agencies*

27 dead in suicide bomb attack at Pak railway station

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

AT least 27 people, including 14 security forces, were killed and 62 others injured on Saturday in a suicide bombing at a railway station in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, officials said.

The explosion ripped through the railway station of the provincial capital Quetta as passengers gathered on the platform before the departure of the Jaffar Express, scheduled to depart for Peshawar at 9:00 am. There were around 100 people on the platform when the blast occurred.

"So far, we have received 27 bodies and at least 62 people are injured, with some in critical condition," said Dr Wasim Baig of the Quetta Trauma Centre.

Dr Arbab Kamran Kasi, Managing Director of the Trauma Centre, warned that the death toll may increase since several wounded individuals, aged 20 to 50, remain in critical condition.

Quetta Division Commissioner Hamza Shafqaat said it was a suicide attack targeting security forces and civilians were also hit badly. "There are around 14 members of the law enforcement agencies among the dead and dozens more among the wounded," he said.

The suicide bomber had entered the station with luggage, Shafqaat said, adding that was difficult to stop a person coming with an intention to carry out a suicide attack.

Earlier, SSP Operations Muhammad Baloch had also said that initial findings point to a possible suicide bombing. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), an ethnic Baloch separatist group designated as a terrorist organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The BLA alleges that the federal government exploits Balochistan's resources while neglecting the province's development.

People get treatment at a hospital following the blast in Quetta | AFP

ASIA MATTERS

Priest stabbed during mass at church

The suspect, a 37-year-old Singaporean man, has been arrested. He is believed to have acted alone, and the police said they do not suspect that this was an act of terrorism, for now. "He is believed to have acted alone, and the police said they do not suspect that this was an act of terrorism, for now," Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam said. "We ask that the faithful remain calm and avoid speculation on social media while the police carry out their investigations," he Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore said in a statement

Economists warn of interference

Over 800 Thai economists issues a joint statement warning of political interference in selecting the central bank's board chairman. Should the central bank "Carry out the wishes of the political group, then it would tarnish the credibility of the central bank, which must maintain a strong economic stability for the country in the long term", they wrote in the statement. The economists were expressing concerns over the government's nomination of Pheu Thai Party loyalist Kittirat Na-Ranong has sparked concerns over the central bank's independence

2k houses damaged in volcano eruption

A total of 2,384 houses and public facilities were damaged or had collapsed after tons of volcanic material hit the buildings, head of a local disaster management agency in Indonesia's Maumere said. Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano continued to spew towering columns of hot ash high into the air on Saturday

REQUIRED

Applications are invited for the post of a **STENO-TYPIST** (English) for M/s.H.R. Ananthakrishnamurthy & Associates, Advocate office, at No.140, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001, with a minimum speed of 100 w.p.m in English. The candidate should be a graduate in English and experienced in stenography. Interested person/s please contact Office **No.080-22863719** and **Mob.No. 8951141519,** or personally meet in the office during working hours.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, **Lakshmi .T** W/o V A Channegowda presently residing at No 4382 14th main road 4th cross A block Rajajinagar 2nd block Subramanya Nagar Bengaluru 560021 as lost/misplaced the original discharge deed, GPA and Hakkupathra on dated 6/7/2023 Document No 1 (sale dead) Shri K Munimuthaiah, represented by GPA holder smt. M Alamelamma in favour of Sri T Ravikumar registered document number DSP-1-00665/2007-08, in book-1, stored in C.D.No.DSPD2.in the office of sub register Dasarpura.

Document No 2 (GPA) sri K Munimuthaiah in favour of smt. M Lakshmi registered document number 6216/1995-96 in book-4 volume 294 in sub register Bangalore North Taluk.

Document No 3 (HAKKU PATHRA) is issued for Kenchmuthiah s/o K Munimuthaiah in 1981 April 20th Bangalore Nelamangala taluk Gangadanahalli Village Survey no 17 site number 31, (Gangodanahalli main road, Shanti Nagar, Lakshmipura Post, Bangalore 562162). Pertaining to the aforesaid property to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Site number 31 survey number 17 (30 * 45)

East :Road, West: Site number 30, South: Road, North - Site number 32

If any person institution has/have any claim or interest of any nature pretaining to aforesaid property; the said claims along with supporting documents shall be filed with undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. At the address mention below. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

UNNIKRISHNAN .M, Senior Advocate
No.46, 1st A Cross, AECS Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094. Ph No.98441 38209, 080-23418399

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE COMMERCIAL COURT AT BENGALURU
Com O.S. No: 59/2024

BETWEEN: **D Thanigasalam,**
Proprietor of Sri. Kandhan E-Motors, Sy No:47, Medhini Arcade, Kithaganahalli, Bommasandra, Bangalore-560099. **...PLAINTIFF**

AND

K.Shivanna **...DEFENDANT**

NOTICE / SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

K.Shivanna, S P Motors Proprietor,
Presently Residing at: Shubha Sree Enclave, FF1, 1st Main Road, Renukamba Nagar, Chunchghatta Main Road, Bangalore-560062. Contact No.: 78990 40499 / 98805 32323. **spmotorsev@gmail.com, shivanna0508@gmail.com**
Office Address: S P Motors, No: 4/A, Sy No: 25/2 & 22, 2nd Stage, 3rd Cross, Nagarbhavi Next to Next Showroom, Bangalore - 560072. Contact: 98805 32323 / 99013 33355.

Whereas the aforementioned Plaintiff has filed COM O S No:59/2024 before the City Civil Commercial Court (CCCH No:88) at Bangalore for recovery of a sum of **Rs.17,13,402/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Two Only)** from the defendant along with court costs and interest at the rate of 18% per annum from case filing date 09-01-2024 to till realization in full with costs. The case is now posted for hearing on **06-01-2025** therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court at 11:00AM either in person or by pleader duly instructed without failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Commercial Court, Bangalore.

Vishwanath T N, Advocate,
No: 567, MIG, "A" Type, KHB, Surya Nagar Phase-1, Chandapura Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District - 560081.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client **1. Sri.Suprith KM**, R/at No 2, 10th Cross, Srikanteshwaranagar new extension, Mahalakshmilayout, Bangalore 560086 is intending to purchase the immovable property bearing Sy.No. 53/10 (old sy no 53/1), measuring 13 guntas, situated at Byadarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural, by way of absolute sale deed from its vendors, 1.Sri. AVINASH C. S/o Late H.Chikka Bylappa. Adhaar No- 758845381111 and 2.Roopa C. d/o Late H chikka Bylappa. Adhaar No - 754485204615. Both are R/at Byadarahalli village, kasaba hobli, nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural

It is hereby informed to the general public that, any person/s, agent, Bank/s, Financial institutions etc.., having any manner of claim, charge, mortgage, right, title and interest etc., in respect of the property described in the schedule mentioned, are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents, as proof and evidence within a period of 15 days, from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claims of such person/s will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities without the notice of my client transaction may do, it will not bind to my client in any manner and they will be doing so at their own risk and cost.

Schedule of Property

All that Piece and parcel of the land Property bearing Sy. No. 53/10 (old sy no 53/1), situated at Byadarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural, measuring 13 Guntas, bounded on the :
East by - H C Murthy's Property
West by - Bylamma, Hanumakka, Anjinamma, Lakshmamma & Others Property
North by - Sy. No. 70 (Lake)
South by - Sy No. 53/4 (Road)

Sd/- Prabhu Rao C B, Advocate,
No. 212/2A, Pandurangа Nilayam, Dodda Banasawadi bus stop , Bengaluru-560043. Mob. 8553184110.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that we are undertaking title due diligence of the agricultural land presently owned by Hemanth Kumar S/o M.G. Chowdappa, he having acquired vide Gift Deed dated 10/01/2014 registered as Document No.DNH-1-07965/2013-14 in Book 1, stored in C.D.No.DNHD 365, in the office of the Sub-registrar Devanahalli which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter together referred to as the 'Schedule Property'.

Public is notified that any person having any claim or interest, or any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim, benefit, demand or interest in or in relation to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, assignment, mortgage, inheritance, bequest, succession, gift, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, possession, family arrangement, settlement, decree or order of any court of law, contracts/ agreements, development right, partnership or arrangements of whatsoever nature, may lodge his/her objections and/or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, to the undersigned within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the Owner (Hemanth Kumar) has right over the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Survey No.8/6 (Old Survey No.8/1) measuring 1 Acre 12 Guntas excluding 2 Guntas of Kharab situated at Sulakunte Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore. Rural District and bounded on:

East by:	Gollahalli Village Boundary;
West by:	Anjinappa's Land;
North by:	Venkataramanappa's land and Main Road;
South by:	Venkataramanappa's land;

Yamuna .S, Advocate,
U & Y Law Chambers,
Unit No. 13B-117, 13th Floor, Wework, Salarpuria Magnificia Old Madras Road, Bangalore - 560016.
Bangalore Date: 09-11-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Smt.Sandya .V.S,** W/o Puttegowda C.B., aged about 43 years, R/at No.50, 11th A' Cross, Opp.:Vijayabharathi English School Road, Kalyan Nagar, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560057. is the absolute owner of the schedule property and she acquired the same by virtue of Gift Deed dated 09.11.2020, from her Daughter Kum.Srujana. On 07-11-2024 my client has lost the original mother deeds viz., 1)Gift Deed dated 02/08/2013, vide Reg. No.NGB-1-04369-2013-14 of Book-1, Stored in CD No.NGBD251, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Nagarabhavi stands in the name of Smt.Hanumamma & 2) Gift Deed dated 12/07/2016, vide its Reg. No.PNY-1-02431-2016-17 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.PNYD644, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Peenya, stands in the name of C.B. Puttegowda pertains to the Schedule Property in the Xerox Centre at WIDIA School Bus Stop, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-57, and the same are not traced after searching in the xerox centre.

Therefore I hereby informed the General Public that surrender theaforesaid mother deeds to the undersigned or to my client, if any person/s found the same and suitable award will be given to him/her.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the property vacant residential site No.21, Assessment No.126, Katha No.126, Karihobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently comes under the limits of BBMP Ward No.40, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet totally 1200 sq. ft. and bounded on: **East by:** Site No.22, **West by:** Site No.20, **North by:** 25 feet Road, and **South by:** Private Property.

M. RAMACHANDRAPPA, Advocate
No.39/1, 1st Floor, Chamber No.18, ASVNV Centenary Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore-560009. Mob:9845826988
Date: 09-11-2024

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया | **Union Bank of India**

STRESSED ASSET MANAGEMENT BRANCH-MUMBAI : Ground Floor, 104, Bharat House, M. S. Marg, Fort, Mumbai-400 001. **E-Mail :** samvmumbai@unionbankofindia.bank

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY / IES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 NOTICE of **15 days** is hereby given to the **Public in General** and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property / ies mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the **Authorized Officer** of **Union Bank Of India** (Secured creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on the dated mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s).The details, Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :-

Date & Time of Auction : 29.11.2024, from 12:00 p. m. to 05:00 p. m.

Name of the Borrower, Co-Applicant & Guarantor :-
1. **M/s. Aventura Components Pvt. Ltd.** (Presently, Under Liquidation Under The Provisions Of IBC, 2016)
2. **M/s. Earth Water Limited,** (Already Sold As Going Concern Under The Provisions of IBC, 2016)
3. **Mr. Sunil Ghorawat, At**-A-3/R-118, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017 **& Also At**-1110-B, Aralias DIF Golf Link DIF-V Gurgaon-122 009.
4. **Mr. Nimir Kishor Mehta, At**-B-21, Paritosh, 3rd Floor, V. I. Mehta, JVPD Scheme, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai-400 056.
5. **M/s. Net Creations Pvt. Ltd. 6. M/s. Veera Resources Pvt. Ltd., At (Same Add. i. e. Sr. No. 5 & 6)**-A1/152, Neb Sarai, Ignou Road, New Delhi-110 068
7. **M/s. Gaylord Commercial Company Ltd., At**-1st Floor, DJ House, Wilson Pen Compound, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East) Mumbai-400 069.

Amount Due : ₹ 122,63,22,648.80 as on **31.03.2023** along with further interest, cost & expenses. **(M/S. AVENTURA COMPONENTS PVT. LTD.-₹ 69,13,23,651.50** as on **31.03.2023** along with further interest, cost & expenses & **M/S EARTH WATER LIMITED.-₹ 53,49,98,997.30** as on **31.03.2023** along with further interest, cost & expenses)

Property No. 1 : - Residential Apt. No. E-3 situated on 3rd Flr. of Residential Bldg. "RICH HOMES" constructed over Property No. 5/1 (Municipal No. 5/1-24, Division No. 61, Ward No. 76), admeasuring 2734 Sq. Ft. (Super Built-Up Area) & along-with Two covered car parking area, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560 025 in the name of Mr. Sunil Ghorawat. Boundaries:- ▪ On the North by : Private Building; ▪ On the South by : Richmond Road; ▪ On the East by : Residency Square Bldg.; ▪ On the West by : Gleneagle Hospital. **(UNDER SYMBOLIC POSSESSION)**

▪ **Reserve Price :** ₹ 2,39,00,000/- ▪ **Earnest money to be deposited :** 10% of the Reserve Price ▪ **Date of Demand Notice :** 20.05.2023 ▪ **Date of Possession Notice :** 09.11.2023 ▪ **Date of Sale Notice :** 06.11.2024

For Further Details Contact : (During Office Hours) :- File Handling Officer & Authorized Officer : Mr. Aman Agarwal at Mobile No. 9833913331

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 29.11.2024 at 12.00 p. m . to 05.00 p. m.

For Registration & Login and Bidding Rules visit https://ebkray.in
For Detailed Terms and Conditions of Sale the interested persons may also visit banks website www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Sd/-
Place : Mumbai **Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Vinod Kumar .R** S/o Late T.Ramareddy R/a. # 456, 1st Cross, R.V.Nilaya, Blagaranahalli Attibele Industrial Area, Virabadraswamy Road, Attibele, Bangalore confirm resident of the above address.

We hereby declare that my client has Lost the below mentioned Original Sale deeds near HDFC Bank K.H.Road, Bangalore on 9th November 2024.

The Document of title Original Sale deeds (Mothers Deeds) 1) Doc.No.411/2002-03 dated 04/05/2002 with respect to Sy.No.95/3 measuring 30 guntas, 2) Doc.No.1440/2005-06 dated 04/07/2005 with respect to Sy.No.95/5 measuring 28 guntas, 3) Doc.No.1231/2002-03 dated 05/07/2002 with respect to Sy.No.95/6 measuring 30 guntas and 4) Doc.No.721/1997-98 dated 02/06/1997 with respect to Sy.No.95/1 measuring 1 acre 18 guntas, all are situated at Hullamballi Village, B.G.Pura Hobli, Malavalli Taluk and registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Mallavalli and Further Police complaint has been lodged on 09/11/2024 in Online bearing Lost Report.No.1326233/2024 to this effect which has been duly acknowledged. The above Public Notice is now issued. Any person having claim/in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed within **14 days** failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.

A.Prashanth, Advocate
No.3755, SAMPRATHI, DESHADAPETE
Doddaballapur Town - 561203.
Mobile No.: 9886628181.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, **Smt. Nagamani,** Aged about 31 Years, W/o. Sri. Appu, Residing at No. 06, Chowdappa Layout, Byalakere, Shivakote Post, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, is the Owner and in possession of the Site bearing No. 20, PID No. 150200200207213 99, Village Panchayath No. 77/20, formed in Byalakere Village Sy No. 77, under Kasagattapura Village Panchayath, Situated at Byalakere Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring : East to West : 9.144 Mtrs and North to South : 6.096 Mtrs, in total 55.74 Sq Mtrs, Purchased through a Registered Sale Deed dated 07/02/2020 executed by Vajramma W/o. Late. Munishamappa along with her children – (1) Gowramma, 2) Mahesha, 3) Mamatha, 4) Venkatesh Since demised by his wife – Narayanamma and Daughter – Manjula in favour of Nagamani, Registered Vide document No. YAN-1-10595-2019-20, CD No. YAND966, SRO, Yelahanka, Bangalore. **Smt. Nagamani** intends to borrow loan from M/s. Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd, No. 300/A-70, G Floor, 10th Main Road, Nandini Complex, Jayanagara 5th Block, Bengaluru – 560 041, by offering the above mentioned property as security for availing loan.

If any Persons, Financial Institutions, Co-operative Banks, have any claim over the property described above, shall contact the undersigned in person with all relevant original documents, in respect of the claim within 7 days.

Date: 09.11.2024
Bangalore **Sd/- K.S CHANDRA SHEKAR**
Advocate & Notary
No.21, Dhondusa Layout,
Off. Bull Temple Road,
Mount Joy Cross Road, Hanumanthanagar,
Bangalore-19. Mob : 9448366193

QuoteExpress

GETTING INFORMATION OFF THE INTERNET IS LIKE TAKING A DRINK FROM A FIRE HYDRANT

MITCHELL KAPOR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
C-896 e-mail: - eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO. EEPHDRAYAGADA-26/2024-25 DT.28.10.2024

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Bid identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	
						From	To
1	3 years Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System in connection to "Augmentation of Water supply to Rayagada Town	EEPHDRAYAGADA - 26 / 2024-25 Dtd. 28.10.2024	200.32	'B' And 'A' Class	36 (Thirty-Six Months)	12.11.2024	27.11.2024

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: **Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada, Email: eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrada@gmail.com**

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in".
All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA

OIPR-13052/11/0005/2425

WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS GORDON B HINCKLEY
QuoteExpress

SRI LAKSHMI MAHILA SAHAKARA BANK NIYAMITHA
"Lakshmi Sadana", No.3,4, East Anjaneya Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Ph: 080 26614794

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Bank has taken possesssion of the immovable property described below under section 13(4) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act- 2002 and the same will be sold by inviting offers/tenders from the public on **"As is where is" and "As is What is Basis"** subject to the terms and conditions mentioned below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower:- Sri Kumar G J S/o Sri Jyothi -Ramalingam, No.40, Sri Ganesha Temple Street,9th Main, 3rd Stage,Pillanna Garden, Bangalore-560045.
Names and Address of the Guarantors:- 1. Smt Valli Dhaivanai w/o Sri Kumar G J, No.40, Sri Ganesha Temple Street, 9th Main, 3rd Stage, Pillanna Garden, Bangalore-560045.
2. Sri Arasan G E s/o Late K V Govinda Swamy, No.115, 3rd Cross, Parvathinagar, Laggere, Bangalore-560058.
Outstanding Liabilities: Rs.49,74,573-00 as on 06-11-2024 with further interest and other charges.
Description of immovable property mortgaged for the loan availed by Sri Kumar G.J. S/o Sri Jyothi Ramalingam (Borrower)
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Property bearing site No.12, portion of property No.54/1, House List No.120/2, situated at 4th Cross, Nanjappa Garden, Babusapalya Cross Road, Chelekere Dhakale, Kalyannagar Post, K.R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50ft, North to South 15 ft, totally measuring 750 sq.ft bounded on: East by : Private Property, West by:Road, North by: Site No.13, South by: Remaning Portion of Same site No.12.
Reserve Price: Rs.68,30,000-00 **EMD : Rs.6,83,000-00**

Date of Opening Tenders At 3-00 p.m. on 27.11.2024 at Bank's Premises

Terms and conditions of the Auction :
1. The Property will not be sold below he Reserve Price.
2. The amount of EMD mentioned above shall be paid by way of Pay Order/DD/Banker's cheque drawn in favour of **"Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha"**, Bangalore-4 on or before **5.00 P.M. On 26-11-2024** along with tender/offer letter for purchase of the property in a sealed cover (EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned without interest)
3. The offer/tender letter shall be accompained with attested copy of the PAN Card and photo identity of the bidder/offer with residential address proof.
4. The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorized Officer of the Bank in the presence of the bidders/ tenderers (who may like to be present) on **27-11-2024 at 3.00 P.M.** The Authorized officer is at liberty to give an opportunity to bid or enhance the offer by the bidders or accept the highest bid amount or reject/postpone the sale of the property at his discretion without assigning any reason therefore.
5. Successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the final bid amount (including EMD) immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance sale price has to be remitted within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale or any other date as may be specified by the Authorized Officer.
6. The successful bidder shall bear all the legal/incidental expenses towards stamp duty, registration charges local taxes, power and water charges etc.,
7. On confirmation of sale by the Bank and upon compliance of terms of payment, the Authorized officer shall issue the sale certificate in the name of the Purchaser only in the Form in Appendix V of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules-2002.
8. The Bank reserves the right to forfeit the amounts already remitted by the bidder if he fails to remit the balance sale price within 15 days or any other date as specified by the Authorized Officer.
9. The Bank will not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance or any other dues to the Government or any claim of any person in respect of the property being sold.
10. The bidder may inspect the property and verify the documents/title deeds available with the Bank with prior intimation and satisfy themselves before submitting the tender (Ph.No.080 26614794).

Note:- This is also a notice to the Borrowers/Guarantors for the loan about holding of acution sale of the property on the date indicated above if the Bank dues are not repaid in full before the date of auction.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 06.11.2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sri Lakshmi Mahila Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Bangalore

AXIS BANK

Retail Lending and Payment Group (Local Office/Branch): Axis Bank Ltd, # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore – 560 027.
Axis Bank Ltd., 3rd Floor, Gigaplex, NPC – 1, TTC Industrial Area, Mugalsan Road, Airoli, Navi Mumbai – 400 708.
Registered Office: "Trishul", 3rd Floor Opp. Samartheshwar Temple Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad – 380006.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Public -Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property is mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on **26th Nov 2024** for recovery of **Rs.2,56,291/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety One only) dues as on **20.10.2015** with future interest and costs due to the secured creditor from **(1) Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** No.31, 1st Floor 20 G Street, Pearl Nursery Road, E G Pura Viveknagar Post, Bangalore-560047, Karnataka, India. **Also at: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** Senior Software Engineer Motorola Mobility India Pvt Ltd., 66/1 Plot 5, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, Karnataka, India. **Also At: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf,** Site No.86, Sriven Serenity, Gutavanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli, Bangalore-560086 Karnataka, India. **Also At: Mr. Mohammed Hasthaf** S/o G A Mohammed House No.1016-4, JM Road, Right Side Mudigere, Chickmangalor-577132, Karnataka, India. **(Borrower)** Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details: -

KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES (IF ANY)	**Not known to the secured creditor. The unpaid charges towards electricity, maintenance, Tax etc. if any, as applicable**
RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	**Rs. 16,82,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Only)**
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.)	**Rs.1,68,200/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Only)** through DD/PO in favor of 'Axis Bank Ltd.' payable at Bangalore.
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	**Rs. 20,000/- (Rs. Twenty Thousand Only)**
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS / TENDER WITH EMD	**Till 25th Nov 2024 latest by 04:00 P.M. at Axis Bank Ltd,** # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore-560027, Addressed to Mr. Raghunath
DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR PUBLIC AUCTION	**On 26 Nov 2024,** between **11.00 A.M and 12.00** Noon with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each at web portal **https://www.bankeauctions.com** e-auction tender documents containing e-auction bid form, declaration etc., are available in the website of the Service Provider as mentioned above.

DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY :

SCHEDULE "A": All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land bearing Sy no. 12, measuring 8 acres, 36 Guntas, (converted vide official memorandum dated 18/6/2005, bearing No. ALN/SR(DE)113/2005-06, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Doddabalapura), situated at Guduvanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Dodda Thatramangala Village Boundary, West by : Road, North by: Property bearing Sy no. 8 and 10 and Chikka Thatramangala Village, South by: Road and Property bearing Sy no. 4.

SCHEDULE "B": All that piece and parcel of Residential vacant site bearing no. 85 Khata no. 80 in BIAAPA approved layout, known as "SRIVEN SERENITY", formed in the Schedule "A" property, situated at Guduvanahalli Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface measuring, East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, Totally measuring 1200 Sq feet. For Site bearing no. 85 and bounded on the: Site No. 85, East by: Road, West by: Site no. 82, North by: 84, South by: 86.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. https://www.axisbank.com/auction-retail and the Bank's approved service provider M/S C1 India Private Limited at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com

The auction will be conducted online through the Bank's approved service provider M/s.C1 India Private Limited at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com.

For any other assistance, the intending bidders may contact Mr. Raghunath at Axis Bank Ltd, # 45 Prestige Libra, 1st Floor, Regional Passport Office, Near: Urvashi Theatre, Lalbagh Road, Lalbagh, Bangalore-560027 (Mobile No. 919886960484, Email ID: raghunath1@axisbank.com).

This Notice should be considered as 15 Days' Notice to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Guarantors under Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Date : 08.11.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **AXIS BANK LTD.,**

2% fall in International crude oil prices in the previous session as traders grew less fearful of prolonged supply disruptions from a hurricane in the US Gulf of Mexico, while China's latest economic-stimulus packages failed to impress some oil traders

Mint Road watchers point to the need to safeguard holdings amid growing geopolitical uncertainties

WHY IS RBI BRINGING GOLD RESERVES BACK TO THE COUNTRY

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank has been on a localisation spree in recent years when it comes to storing 854.7 tonne of its gold assets/reserves. Of the total, 510.5 tonne are now stored in the different vaults of the central bank, mostly in the Mumbai vaults.

It has also been on a gold-buying spree since between April 2022 and September 2024, it has added close to 100 tonne to the reserves.

In just two years ending September 2024, the RBI has quietly brought back 214 tonnes of gold. In FY23, the monetary authority had brought in only 5.3 tonne back to the country, taking the domestic storage to 301.1 tonnes. In FY24, the number went up by 106.8 tonne, taking the local storage to 408.3 tonne. In the first six months of the current financial year, the central bank brought back 102.2 tonnes, taking the total to 510.5 tonne.

Of the rest of the reserves, 314 tonne are with the safe vaults of Bank of England, 10 tonne are with the Bank for International Settlement in Basel, Switzerland and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the reminder 20.3 tonnes are in gold deposits, according to the latest data released by the central bank late October.

Putting the 1991 clock back

This is a story of setting the January and July 1991 clock back when the nation was forced to airlift more than close to 87 tonne to raise emergency forex to prevent a sovereign default and to make enough for exim cover as the foreign exchange reserves were only $600 million, which is now is close to $700 billion.

Of the total pledge, the government pledged 67 tonne as collateral to secure a $2.2 billion emergency loan from the International Monetary Fund, for this 47 tonne were airlifted to the Bank of England in May 1991 to secure a $405 million loan; and 20 tonne were sent to the Union Bank of Switzerland in May 1991. Before that in January 1991, the State Bank of India was asked to lease some of its gold to bolster forex reserves and after government approval, 20 tonne of gold worth $234 million was shipped abroad. Following improvement in the balance of payments position, the Reserve Bank had bought 18.36 tonne during November-December of 1991.

Though the loan was repaid by November 1991, the RBI chose to keep the gold in there for logistic reasons. Gold stored abroad can be easily used for trading, entering into swaps, and earning returns.

The RBI also buys gold from international markets, and storing it overseas facilitates these transactions. Additionally, gold held in the form of certificates can be used for trading, entering into currency swaps, and earning small returns. The Reserve Bank also accumulates gold from international markets, and keeping it in Bank of England vaults is logistically convenient.

So, what is driving the RBI to bring back gold to the country that too in special aircraft and in utter secrecy?

When asked about it during the post-monetary policy presser on June 7, 2024, governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank moved gold reserves from England to the RBI vaults in Mumbai as "there is enough storage capacity and that there is nothing more should be read into it." Before this transfer, the RBI had around 500 tonne of gold stored abroad.

Mint Road observers see many a reason

But many Mint Road watchers point to the need to safeguard holdings amid growing geopolitical uncertainties — after Russia invaded Ukraine in the last week of February 2022, Western nations froze the Russian assets parked in their countries.

The US went a step further by derecognsing Russia's foreign exchange reserves. Since October last Israel has been fighting three wars simultaneously and many within the government believe that housing gold in our own vaults is a safer approach during these uncertain times apart from saving on insurance cost and storage fees, which runs into tens of millions. Another reason is to diversify risks as sorting the high value asset in different locations minimizes risks apart from diversifying forex reserves.

Some even point to the worries about the health of the British economy has also likely increased the RBI's worries about the safety of gold reserves overseas.

An economist said this is a tool the RBI uses as part of hedging the inflation risks as gold can act as a hedge against inflation, retaining or increasing in value when currencies lose purchasing power. Another use is that gold reserves can safeguard against rupee devaluation, preserving national wealth amid economic uncertainties.

NEWSCOPE

TRUMP & THE ART OF MILKING THE 'IMMIGRANT INVASION'

GURBIR SINGH

THE world and its many ivory tower pundits are still struggling to come to terms with the shock victory of Donald Trump. The pollsters said it was dead heat between Trump and Kamla Harris. The only one saying he would win with a wide margin was Donald Trump. Not only did he win the electoral votes of the swing states, but he carried the national, popular vote as well – a feat a Republican US presidential candidate last achieved 2 decades ago when George W Bush beat John Kerry in 2004.

The democratic vote – these days becoming increasingly difficult to predict – is the final outcome after a cocktail of hopes, aspirations, fears, anti-incumbency pulls and identity assertions furiously churn and deliver a verdict. Sometimes, a single factor dominates.

With hindsight, the pundits say Trump succeeded in convincing people the US economy was far worse than it was 4 years ago; that the Biden administration was a failure in securing the borders; that immigrants had taken over the country; and that the Democrats couldn't find a solution to the wars.

Racist package

Hindsight analysis is easy because there is no accountability; but for this writer it was crystal clear Trump's single-mindedly focus on the 'immigrant invasion' was a clear winner. Despite all his rambling at rallies, Donald Trump hammered out his ugly rhetoric on one, and only one thing – America being swamped by the 'great unwashed'; and the Biden administration failing to do anything about it.

The picture he painted extended from falsely accusing Haitian immigrants of eating pet cats and dogs in a small Ohio town of Springfield, to spreading lies that American universities had been taken over by jihadists "who want to blow up our streets, our malls and everything America stands for".

Never mind the ludicrous story of cats and dogs. Scapegoating migrants struck a chord even among Latinos, themselves 'immigrants' years ago. He played on the worry that the demography of the country was changing, that peoples jobs, whatever they had, would be taken away. Trump effectively turned economic despair, high prices and all the other ills into a single deadly package of racial hatred.

His narrative is false, but who cares! The latest figures from the Department of Homeland Security and Pew Research show there are around 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the US, and that this number has remained relatively stable since 2005. It is also proven these immigrants don't take away American jobs; they do the jobs which Americans don't want to do. The US economy won't work without them.

Converting anti-immigrant paranoia to votes is an old playbook. Trump had used in the 2016 polls too. Then his focus was on building a wall along Mexico's 750 km border to keep out the rest of South America. He won the elections, but the Trump Wall was a failure.

SOURAV ROY

Immigration – the movement of large formations of people – from one region to another and one country to another has existed since the beginning of humankind. There are those searching for a livelihood; and there are economies undergoing rapid development requiring large inputs of labour not available locally. Immigration is the natural playing out of the demand and supply of labour.

In recent years though, immigration has cascaded to become large swathes of humanity fleeing wars and conflict, and hunger. It's a race for survival illustrated by the terrible sea voyages from North Africa to Europe across the Mediterranean that is claiming thousands of lives each year. For the 'receiving' communities though immigrants are an 'invasion' – a threat to the local culture and demography.

India and Europe

In India, we have our own Trumps who have been focusing on the large scale immigration of Bangladeshis who have crossed borders to earn a living. That they are Muslims only has sharpened the aggression against them. In recent election campaigns in West Bengal and Tripura, Bangladeshi 'infiltration' has been the single point agenda of the BJP. It has failed in West Bengal, but succeeded in both Assam and Tripura.

Currently, deporting Bangladeshi immigrants is on the table for the first time in the Jharkhand elections. The narrative is simple: the tribal population is being diluted by the large influx of Bangladeshis; and that the locals have everything to lose – 'Roti, Beti, Maati' – if they don't eject the Congress government in the state.

Who knows, the BJP may pull it off in Jharkhand! But nobody is asking who is responsible for the 'infiltration'. After all, India's borders with Bangladesh are in the able hands of the Border Security Force (BSF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) – both under the Union ministry of home headed by Mr Amit Shah. If there is 'infiltration', the home minister must answer.

Europe too is seeing waves of immigrants pouring in to escape the worsening wars in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Chaos in the border communities has fueled the hard-right, semi-fascist parties into ascendant positions. Georgia Meloni, who heads the 'Brothers of Italy' Party in Italy, lead a right-wing coalition 2 years ago to become Prime Minister. Her agenda is to stop migrants using Italy as a landing point from North Africa.

France too is in the midst of an immigration crisis with President Emmanuel Macron just about holding on to power against a resurgent anti-immigration National Rally party.

The picture on the horizon is not good. Increasing conflict in West Asia is spurring more 'survival' immigration; and Donald Trump and others are threatening to institutionalize deportation of millions. What will follow is uprooted families and misery.

Will launch 20 products over two years, says Ola Electric

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OLA ELECTRIC, country's largest electric two-wheeler maker, will be launching one new product every quarter and expanding its company-owned store footprint to 2,000 by March 2025. This aggressive expansion plan comes as the Bengaluru-based company is facing stiff competition from legacy players amid concerns related to its inability to provide smooth after-sales services.

"Over the next two years, we will launch 20 products, with at least 1 new product every quarter," said Ola Electric in its latest investor presentation. Currently, Ola has the broadest portfolio in EV scooters with 6 models across a price range of ₹75,000 to ₹150,000. It is now focusing on entering other 2/3W categories.

Ola Electric in August had launched its Roadster motorcycle series with the first product to be delivered in March 2025. The products are priced between ₹74,999 and ₹249,999 across 3 models and 8 variants.

Ola believes in a faster EV penetration journey in motorcycles compared to scooters since the infra and awareness for EVs are already built. Ola said that its Gen 3 platform announced in August is ahead of schedule and the S1 Gen 3 products will be delivered in January 2025. Gen 3 will enable a 20% savings in BOM costs over the next 12 months.

On its store expansion strategy, Ola Electric said the company has 782 owned stores as of September 2024, with each store delivering 130 sales per quarter, roughly 2-3x of the industry average.

"We're expanding our company-owned store (and colocated service infra) network to 2,000 company-owned stores by March 2025. In addition to our company-owned stores, we launched the 'Network Partner Program' in September aimed at taking the EV revolution further Pan-India where EV penetration still remains low. Under this, we have 1,000+ partners already live and aim to expand it to 10,000 partners, across sales and service, by the end of 2025," stated the company.

Ola Electric on Friday reported that its year-on-year net loss has narrowed to ₹495 crore for the quarter ending September 2024 as against ₹524 crore in the year ago quarter. Revenue from operations rose 39% YoY to ₹1,214 crore in the reporting quarter.

Ola Electric said their gross margins for Q2FY25 are at 20.6% and a focus on technology and vertical integration has a roadmap to take steady-state margins to above 30% even after incentives fall away as shown in the chart below.

HoABL expands development of plot biz in north

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

HOUSE of Abhinandan Lodha (HoABL), Mumbai-based realtor, is expanding its plot development business in North India and recently opened its new office in DLF Cyber City, Gurugram. This new office will serve as a central hub for managing its latest acquisitions, project deliveries and its ambitious plan to bring Grade-A land ownership opportunities to a larger audience.

HoABL recently concluded major land acquisitions of 352 acres across Amritsar, Vrindavan, Varanasi, Shimla, Nagpur and Khopoli near Mumbai. These acquisitions, totalling ₹3,000 crore in investments, will be brought to market beginning January 2025 in the form of branded new generation land with revenue potential of a billion dollar. HoABL has delivered 150 acres of plotted land within the promised timelines and has another 700 acres under development, across 6 locations – Anjarle , Dapoli, Neral and Alibaug in Maharashtra , Goa and Ayodhya.

EXPRESS READ

AI Express plans more international flights; to have 110 planes by March 25

New Delhi: Expanding its network, Air India Express will focus on connecting smaller cities and towns with metros as well as fly to new overseas destinations, as per senior officials. The airline, recently completed merger of AIX Connect with itself, has a fleet of 90 aircraft and the count is expected to cross 110 by the end of this fiscal. *ENS*

Will Launch seaplane ops in 2025 to most remote locations: SpiceJet

New Delhi: SpiceJet on Saturday said it plans to launch seaplane operations in 2025 to connect India's most remote and picturesque locations. SpiceJet's Chairman and Managing Director, Ajay Singh said it has partnered in seaplane trials across multiple locations, providing engineering, technical, and logistical support to De Havilland. *ENS*

Q2FY25RESULTS

India Cements loss widens to ₹339 cr, revenue from ops down 18.4% to ₹1K cr

THE India Cements Ltd (ICL) on Friday reported a consolidated net loss to ₹339.13 crore for the second quarter ending September 2024.

The company had incurred a loss of ₹80.07 crore in the July-September period a year ago, according to a BSE filing by the company, in which rival Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement has announced to acquire a majority stake. The company's revenue from operations was down 18.4% to ₹1,031.80 crore as compared to ₹1,264.39 crore in the corresponding quarter last financial year.

The company's total expenses were at ₹1,322.98 crore, down 3.8%. Total income, which includes other income, in the September quarter was down 6.41% to ₹1,190.75 crore.

The cement manufacturer reported an earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBIDA) loss of ₹163 crore, it is in comparision to the positive EBITDA of of ₹7.7 crore it had reported in the same quarter of the previous financial year. UltraTech Cement had acquired 22.77% stake in India Cements in June 2024 at a price of ₹268 per share. *ENS*

Divi's Labs net profit rises 46% to ₹510 crore

NEW DELHI: Pharmaceutical giant Divi's Labs' on Saturday reported a net profit of ₹510 crore, a rise of 46.5% for the Q2FY25.

It had reported a net profit of ₹348 crore in the same quarter the previous year. The company reported a 49.5% YoY growth in its EBITDA, reaching ₹716 crore for the quarter ending September 2023 as against ₹479 crore in the same period last year. It saw a major rise in its Q2 margin, rising by 500 basis points to 30.6%, up from 25% in the previous year. For the half-year period ending September 30, the company reported a consolidated total income of ₹4,640 crore, compared to ₹3,854 crore for Q2FY24. *ENS*

Asian Paints net profit plunges 43% on weak demand, revenue down 5%

NEW DELHI: The country's largest paint-maker Asian Paints on Saturday reported a steep 43% year-on-year plunge in consolidated net profit at ₹694.64 crore, down from ₹1,205.42 crore a year earlier on weak demand, which though fell by 5.3% to ₹8,003.02 crore in the September quarter.

Managing director Amit Syngle pointed to the weak consumer demand and adverse weather conditions as key factors affecting performance.

He said the industry faced muted demand during the reporting period with domestic decorative coatings volume falling by 5.5% due to sluggish consumer sentiment and prolonged rains in some regions. Operating margins were impacted by last year's price cuts, along with higher input costs and increased selling expenses, he said, and guided towards better days given recent price hikes should contribute positively to margins in second half of the fiscal year. Syngle expressed optimism about a potential margin recovery in the coming quarters, expecting relief from lower raw material costs combined with recent price adjustments. Despite demand challenges, Asian Paints said it is leveraging the brand strength and broad distribution network to augment supply. *ENS*

Advani bags record 28th World Billiards title

Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani clinched a historic 28th world title, seventh in a row, defeating England's Robert Hall 4-2 at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on Saturday. Advani's winning streak had begun in 2016 and has also survived two years (2020, 2021) of vacuum created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ever since Carlsen accused Niemann of cheating, the sport, especially the online format, is viewed at with plenty of apprehensions by everyone involved; There are various anti-cheating measures in place and that is evident in the ongoing Chennai Grand Masters. **Swaroop Swaminathan** finds out more

Parham Maghsoodloo

Levon Aronian

FEAR, PARANOIA & SUSPICION
WELCOME TO CHESS, A FRACTURED GAME

SRINATH Narayanan remembers when players used to play pool, order some fries and come back to the table after the end of the '10 minute prayer break'. "It's impossible to think of those times now," he says. Narayanan, the tournament director for the ongoing Chennai Grand Masters (CGM), is reminiscing about a time when professional chess wasn't filled with fear, loathing and general paranoia. There was an unshakeable trust between players and fears of cheating didn't exist. He likes to call it the age of 'innocence'.

These days? Anything but. Ever since Magnus Carlsen shocked the genteel world of chess by accusing Hans Niemann of cheating in an over-the-board game during their 2022 Sinquefield Cup (Niemann wasn't found to have cheated), the paranoia has grown like mould.

Leon Luke Mendonca, playing in the Challengers field at Chennai, spoke about his 'paranoia', when he faced Niemann in an OTB match last year. "That was interesting," he says. "I played him in Baku in 2023. That time he was just over 2700. I was really paranoid because what if he's really cheating? He played a very risky line with black. I got a much better position but I was still paranoid... what if this is some computer thing I didn't understand? But I kept outplaying him and till the time I had won the game, I wasn't certain whether he was cheating or not. When I played him in Wijk Aan Zee earlier this year, I knew he wasn't cheating. In general, I don't think he's cheating. He's just a different person, it's his personality."

These days, chess — especially online chess — is at breaking point because trust is completely broken thanks to the ease of 'transmission of information'. Levon Aronian, playing in the Masters section at Chennai, believes you can 'never be 100% sure when it comes to online chess'. "I don't care," the US GM says. "I believe in karma. I play with a free and relaxed mind. Over the board, people make so many mistakes you can just relax." After the Carlsen-Niemann episode, over-the-board tournaments have had to adapt on the fly. The 2nd edition of the CGM is no different. Like every other tournament, the broadcast is deferred by 15 minutes to prevent anybody else from accessing real-time positions. What are some of the other anti-cheating measures in place? Here's Narayanan. "We do have a walkthrough scanner," the 30-year-old says. "Once players pass that, we have a typical handheld metal detector. These are basic things. Players are forbidden from bringing in any electronic things, so mobile phones, smartwatches and so on. They are also discouraged from wearing any jewellery. Here (in this tournament), the winner is taken to a screening room and they are again checked for electronic devices. The toilets they use are meant only for them. And there's a full sweep to ensure there are no planted devices."

Sunday Special

What does Aronian, 42, make of all this? "Cases of cheating over the board are rare but if somebody wants to cheat, they will. It's unfortunate, I think it's like fighting corruption." While the world body (FIDE) is doing its bit to make the players feel as safe as possible, Aronian's view is different. "I think the implementation of anything if put in the hands of an organisation takes a long time whereas individuals... at St Louis Chess Club they have a device. It scans for every single digital wave or something but this device is expensive."

The net effect? Chess is in a poorer place because players have lost the enjoyment aspect of playing the game. Parham Maghsoodloo, another player at Chennai, says it will soon be 'killed'. Narayanan says it was 'more enjoyable in those times'. Maghsoodloo has more or less stopped playing online because 'you can never be sure'. "It can just kill your brain." However, the Iranian has also been on the receiving end of an accusation of cheating in 2020. It's why Narayanan wants players to dial back on the suspicions. "Closet discussions are going on and a lot of them are baseless and random," Narayanan, who wears three hats — player, administrator and coach — says. "Once you believe or suspect that the other person is cheating, you can't play them again. It affects the way you play. This itself becomes a factor or you start playing suboptimally. You can have your suggestions and suspicions but it's better to not go overboard."

Mendonca, 18, says he's not qualified to give an answer because of 'my inexperience' but during the recently held Dubai Open, he did develop an inhibition during a game. "This person was rated 2300 and he was playing at a 2650 level," he says. "I was contemplating telling the arbiter. I also wanted to discuss the game with him afterwards. Soon after the game ended, he offered to discuss and he had just played really well."

Last month, Mendonca also faced off against Kirill Shevchenko in the Romanian Team Championships (Shevchenko was expelled from the Spanish Club Championships later in October after a phone was found in the bathroom). "I was never worried. I thought he liked thinking away from the board. I don't think he cheated against me."

Every once in a while — this can even be on a weekly basis — someone accuses somebody of cheating (granted a few of these accusations are made by the likes of Vladimir Kramnik on X) and the game goes through this cycle. It's why Viswanathan Anand had said cheating allegations will never go away. "... it would be an arms race," he had said in 2023 when he was addressing the issue in his capacity as FIDE's deputy head. "Once you feel that you have screened for all these things, imagine in a couple of years people will think 'Well, you haven't screened for this' because everything has shrunk (in terms of size). I don't think it will completely go away."

On Sunday afternoon, when the sixth and penultimate round of CGM begins, players will have the feeling of walking towards a security check at an airport. They are frisked thoroughly before they are allowed to proceed. The only difference? Once their game finishes, they have to walk 100 metres or so towards the media centre. Once there, a designated volunteer goes to the far end of the room and hands them a sealed cover with their watches and phones.

Welcome to 2024, a game where paranoia mingles with fear and suspicion is the only game in town.

MASTERS

Saturday's results: Aravindh Chithambaram drew with Alexey Sarana, Levon Aronian bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Gujrathi drew with Tabatabaei, Erigaisi drew with Maghsoodloo.

Sunday's matches: Tabatabaei vs Maghsoodloo, Chithambaram vs Erigaisi, Vachier-Lagrave vs Sarana, Gujrathi vs Aronian.

CHALLENGERS

V Pranav drew with Sadhwani, Vaishali drew with D Harika; Murali bt Puranik, Mendonca drew with Pranesh

Sunday's matches Mendonca vs Murali, Vaishali vs Puranik, Sadhwani vs Harika, Pranesh vs Pranav.

CAN SA BOUNCE BACK?

A look at some of the key talking points ahead of second T20I...

EYES ON STUBBS

Tristan Stubbs is at the core of South African batting at the moment. And not just in one format. The youngster is growing into their all-format super star and he will be looking to get some runs.

WILL VYSHAK PLAY?

Vyshak Vijaykumar has come up the ranks rapidly with his performance in the IPL, and is expected to play at some point during the series. With India taking the lead already, is this day the pacer makes his debut?

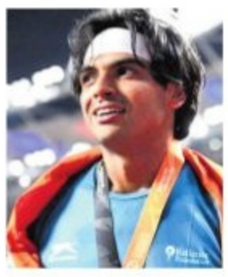
SOUTH AFRICA VS INDIA, 2ND T20I, GQEBERHA
LIVE ON SPORTS18 AND JIOCINEMA FROM 7.30PM

Similar style: How Jan became Neeraj's coach

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

AFTER two Olympic medals (one gold and one silver), two world championships medals (one silver and one gold) and numerous other medals and top finishes with coach Klaus Bartonietz by his side over five years, Neeraj Chopra is set to enter a new chapter with a new coach. Perhaps, in his bid to cross the 90m-mark, Neeraj has roped in Czech world record holder Jan Zelezny for the new season. It is understood that the coach was Neeraj's choice.

Going by the Athletics Federation of India's take, there are very credible and practical reasons behind Zelezny's choice. AFI president Adille Sumariwalla very succinctly elucidates the rationale behind closing in on the Czech legend. "It is not that we have been talking to one coach," said the AFI chief. "We have spoken to four-five coaches. There is a Russian and some other coaches. His style is similar to Neeraj and more than anything else Neeraj also wanted him as coach. And after so many years of success at the highest level, he knows what he wants."



The AFI chief said that what really went in favour of the Czech was that he was of similar build as Neeraj and so is his technique. "That was one of the things that excited us," he said. "He was already on our radar. He himself was showing very good interest in coming to coach our throwers. It was like a marriage made in heaven. Neeraj spoke to him and he also said that 'he is very good for me and his style is similar'. He understands his needs. He has seen so many good coaches and when Neeraj said he would go with Jan it was final. We shortlisted a Russian coach and we were talking to four other coaches simultaneously."

The AFI chief said that they would not stop at just Zelezny but hire one or two more coaches for other javelin throwers. "We have so many good javelin throwers and we will hire them," he said. Like most transitions, this too will be followed very closely. More so because of an illustrious and rewarding ward-coach relationship that fostered between Neeraj and Kalus since 2019. Things will be more challenging because of the niggle in the adductor that Neeraj had been complaining openly since the Olympics this year where he was pushed to second spot after an astonishing throw by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem. The highlight of the relationship between Klaus and Neeraj was they complimented each other on and off the field.

Zelezny, perhaps will be mindful of that. Klaus, a bio-mechanics specialist, has always been a coach. Zelezny, on the other hand, had been a player with the world record in javelin written against his name.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Action from the clash between Chennaiyin FC and Mumbai City FC | ISL

Honours even in 1000th Indian Super League tie

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHENNAIYIN FC's hunt for a home victory this season continued as they were held 1-1 by Mumbai City FC in the Indian Super League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday. In what was the 1000th match in the history of the India's premier league, both teams had a fair share of chances but nothing to show on the scorecard in the opening half.

Ryan Edwards broke the deadlock in the hour mark to put the home side in front. That came through a set piece. With Connor Shields delivering a sumptuous free-kick into the box from a fair distance, Edwards rose highest to find the bottom right corner. However, the away side responded almost instantly. Dutch midfielder Nathan Rodrigues also displayed his heading proficiency as he found the equaliser just three minutes later.

In another match, Mohammedan Sporting Club and East Bengal GC played out a 0-0 draw at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.

EXPRESS READ

Korea Masters: Kiran loses to Vitidsarn

IKSAN CITY (KOREA): Indian shuttler Kiran George's impressive run at the Korea Masters came to an end with a semifinal loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the men's singles competition here on Saturday. The 24-year-old, ranked 41st in the world, went down 12-21, 20-22 to the World No 5 Vitidsarn in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

Delhi, Punjab and Haryana earn wins

CHENNAI: Punjab, Haryana and Delhi were among the victorious teams on the sixth day of the Hockey India Senior Men National Championship, here. In Pool A, Punjab hammered Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey 8-0. In Pool B, Haryana trounced Telangana 5-1. Delhi defeated Kerala Hockey 6-1 in their Pool F meeting.

Vinicius helps Real crush Osasuna

AGENCIES @ Madrid

VINICIUS Junior scored a hat-trick to help Real Madrid bounce back from two consecutive home defeats with a 4-0 win over Osasuna in La Liga on Saturday.

Hammered by Barcelona in a league Clasico and then outplayed by AC Milan in the Champions League, Carlo Ancelotti's side badly needed this confidence-boosting victory. The Spanish and European champions thrashed Osasuna thanks to Vinicius' treble, while Jude Bellingham scored his first goal of the season for Los Blancos. However, Madrid's superstar striker Kylian Mbappe failed to find the net again and has scored one goal in his last seven matches, while Brazilian duo Eder Militao and Rodrygo were taken off injured along with Lucas Vazquez.

Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring his side's fourth goal | AP

Second-placed Madrid reigned in Barcelona's lead at the top of La Liga to six points before the Catalans visit Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Brentford win thriller

LONDON: Brentford posted a thrilling 3-2 win over Bournemouth in the Premier League. Yoane Wissa scored a double for the winners. Bournemouth had taken the lead through Evanilson before Wissa levelled the tie. Justin Kluivert then put Bournemouth in front for the second time but Mikkel Damsgaard put the game on level terms yet again. Eight minutes later, Wissa netted his second to put Brentford in front. And that eventually proved to be the difference. **EPL results:** West Ham **0-0** Everton; C Palace **0-2** Fulham; Brentford **3-2** Bournemouth; Wolves **2-0** Southampton.

Jurel at home in Australia, India A not so much

ENS @ Chennai

INDIA A might have lost the match but Dhruv Jurel once again showed why he is capable of featuring in the Test team as a specialist batter with his second fifty in as many innings against Australia A. Having arrived in the country early to get some game time, Jurel made the most of it as he hit half centuries in the both the innings of the second and final unofficial Test between the A teams.

Starting the day at 73/5, Jurel was the lone shining light as he scored a patient 68 from 122 balls, while sharing a vital 94-run partnership with Nitish Reddy (38). Prasidh Krishna (29) and Tanush Kotian (44) also contributed but a target of 168 was never going to be enough. For Australia A, off-spinner Corey Rocchiccioli (4/74) and all-rounder Beau Webster (3/49) did their bit but all eyes were on Jurel who held his own at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in both the innings.

Brief scores: India A 161 & 229 all out in 77.5 ovs (Dhruv Jurel 68, Tanush Kotian 44; Corey Rocchiccioli 4/74, Beau Webster 3/49, Nathan McAndrew 2/53) **lost to** Australia A 223 & 169/4 in 47.5 ovs (Sam Kontas 73 n.o, Beau Webster 46 n.o; Prasidh 2/37).

Gharami,Saha step up as Bengal hold Karnataka

ENS/AGENCIES

BENGAL earned three points from the draw against Karnataka by virtue of their first innings lead and moved up to fourth position on the table with eight points. Once Bengal made 283 for five declared in their second innings to build an overall lead of 363 runs, the fate of the match was sealed. Sudip Kumar Gharami made an unbeaten 101 (193b, 12x4, 2x6) and added 123 runs for the sixth wicket with Wriddhiman Saha (63 not out, 70b, 7x4, 1x6). The home side made 110 for three before both the skippers agreed for a draw.

Himateja hits ton for Hyd

JAIPUR: Kodimela Himateja's fighting century helped Hyderabad hold on to a draw against Rajasthan. After conceding the first innings lead, the visitors were in a bit of bother but Himateja's unbeaten 101 ensured there was no drama on the final day.

Mumbai thrash Odisha

MUMBAI: Shams Mulani (5/71) and Himanshu Singh (4/77) wreaked havoc by sharing nine wickets between them as defending champions Mumbai crushed Odisha by an innings and 103 runs in their Elite Group A match. Mulani snared 11 wickets in the game which the hosts dominated after piling up a massive 602 for four declared. Odisha were shot out for 214 in the second innings after Mumbai captain Ajinkya Rahane imposed a follow-on.

Veterans shine for Andhra

VIZIANAGARAM: Once again the experienced trio of Kapil Shinde (65), Hanuma Vihari (66) and KS Bharat (92) came to Andhra's rescue as they salvaged a draw against Uttarakhand here on Saturday. Chasing 321, Andhra lost early wickets but the middle-order took them to 286/6.

TN avoid defeat

GUWAHATI: An unbeaten century by N Jagadeesan (118 n.o.; 188b, 9x4, 1x6) and a valuable 68 not out by Pradosh Ranjan Paul helped Tamil Nadu salvage a draw against Assam. Tami Nadu were 217/2 in 60 overs when play was called off.

Tough loss for Delhi

CHANDIGARH: Shivam Bhambri took spinners to cleaners on a turner as Chandigarh shocked seven-time champions Delhi by nine wickets to go top of group D in the Ranji Trophy match played in Chandigarh. On a track where Chandigarh's Nishunk Birla got 12 wickets, Delhi's spin troika of Shivank Vashist (0/48), Sumit Mathur (1/34) and Hrithik Shokeen (0/50) were found wanting with Chandigarh chasing down the target of 203 in 40.2 overs.

Saxena delivers for Kerala

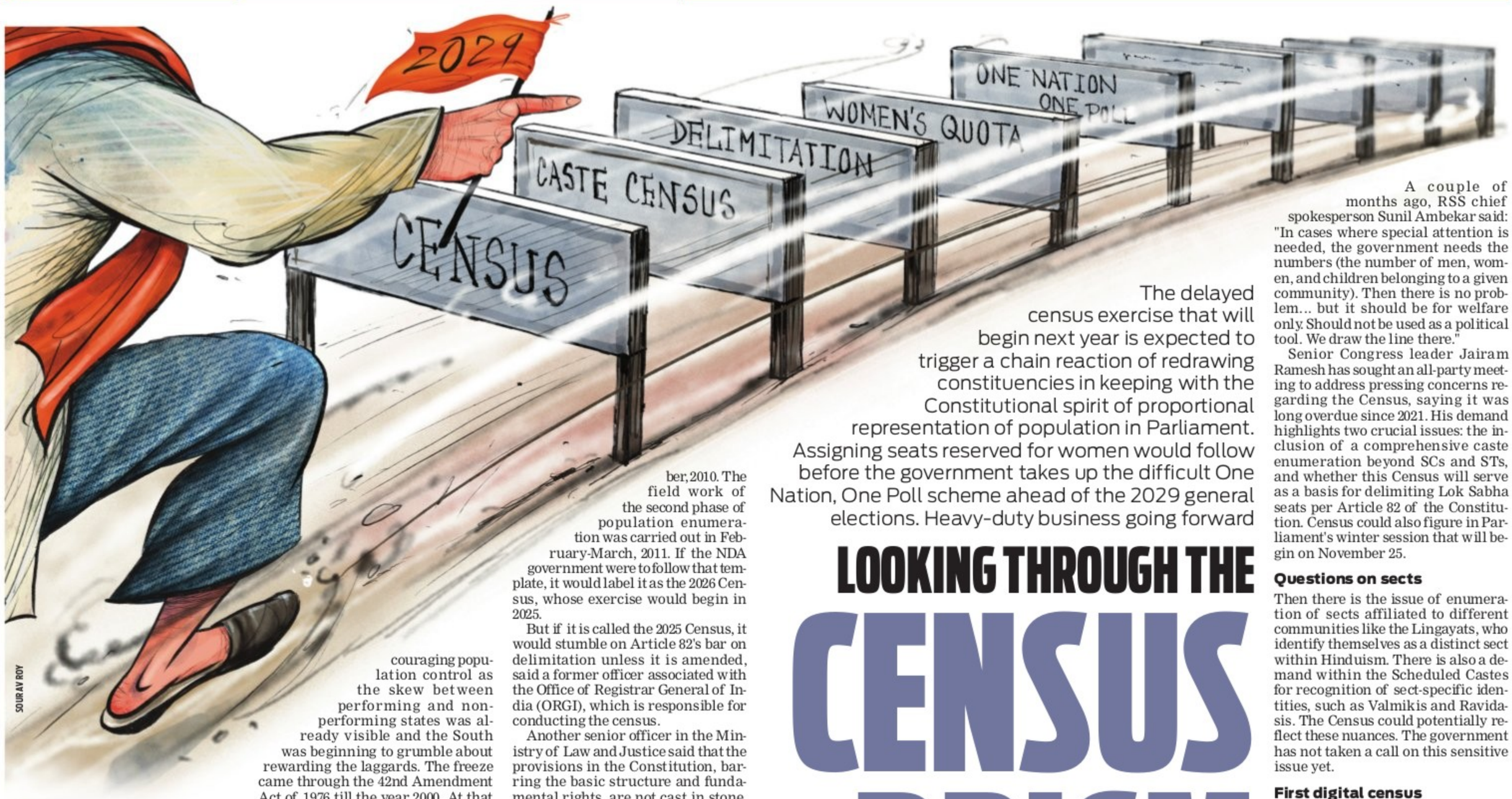
THUMBA: Jalaj Saxena grabbed six wickets as Kerala outclassed Uttar Pradesh by an innings and 117 runs to keep themselves close to a knockout berth from Group C. After most of the third day was interrupted by heavy rain and a leaky dressing room, Kerala were in no mood to wait for the mercy of the weather on the final day, bundling out UP, who resumed from overnight 66 for two, for 116. Saxena-led Kerala bagged the remaining eight Uttar Pradesh wickets for a mere 50 runs to celebrate their second outright win. Meanwhile, the Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) apologised for the dressing room leakage fiasco.

SELECT SCORES

Mumbai 602/4 decl **bt** Odisha 285 & 214 in 72/5 ovs (F/O) (Aashirwad Swain 51; Shams Mulani 5/71, Himanshu Singh 4/77); Puducherry 361 & 177/2 in 45 ovs (Aman Khan 77, Ajay Rohera 68 n.o) **drew with** Gujarat 375 in 123 ovs (Aarya Desai 200; Sagar Udeshi 5/79); Hyderabad 410 & 273/3 in 65 ovs (Kodimela Himateja 101 n.o, Rahul Singh 47) **drew with** Rajasthan 425; Uttar Pradesh 162 & 116 all out in 37.5 ovs (Madhav Kaushik 36; Jalaj Saxena 6/41, Aditya Sarvate 3/15) **lost to** Kerala 395 all out in 124.1 ovs (Salman Nizar 93, Sachin Baby 83, Mohammed Azharuddeen 40; Aaqib Khan 3/51); Bengal 301 & 283/5 decl in 81.4 ovs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 101 n.o, Wriddhiman Saha 63 n.o; Vidyadhar Patil 3/53) **drew with** Karnataka 221 & 110/3 in 28 ovs (R Smaran 35 n.o, Manish Pandey 30 n.o; Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 3/27); Delhi 276 & 250 **lost to** Chandigarh 324 & (target 203) 204/1 in 40.2 ovs (Shivam Bhambri 100 n.o, Arsalan Khan 68); Tamil Nadu 338 & 217/2 (N Jagadeesan 118, PR Paul 68) **drew with** Assam 445; Uttarakhand 338 & 128/9 decl drew with Andhra 146 & 286/6 in 93 ovs (Bharat 92, Vihari 66, Shinde 65; Deepak 5/75).

CYCLE CHANGE FOR CENSUS

Will it be called Census 2021 beginning in 2025? Or Census 2025? Or Census 2026? Sources said the decennial census cycle would change to 2035-36, 2045-46, and so on henceforth



The delayed census exercise that will begin next year is expected to trigger a chain reaction of redrawing constituencies in keeping with the Constitutional spirit of proportional representation of population in Parliament. Assigning seats reserved for women would follow before the government takes up the difficult One Nation, One Poll scheme ahead of the 2029 general elections. Heavy-duty business going forward

LOOKING THROUGH THE CENSUS PRISM

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

At least four elements appeared intertwined after news recently broke that the much-delayed 2021 Census exercise would begin in early 2025. While there was no official word, the newsbreak came from reliable quarters and there was no reason to doubt its authenticity. The first of the four elements or prongs is the Census itself. The next is delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, which means fixing boundaries of territorial constituencies so as to roughly have the same proportional representation of population from every seat in the House of People in Parliament.

Tied to delimitation is the third prong - the enforcement of the law on 33% reservation of seats to women in Parliament. The women's reservation bill made it mandatory for delimitation to precede the quota's rollout. And finally, the One Nation, One Poll (ONOP) plan the Modi government is committed to despite the need for multiple amendments to the Constitution. Taken together, they give a sense that the government already has a full calendar of mega events lined up till 2029 irrespective of some fireworks from allies and lots from the Opposition INDIA bloc.

Population enumeration

The Census exercise is conducted in two phases. It begins with house listing and housing Census for which a set of 31 questions have been prepared so far by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner. The house listing and updating the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020 but had to be put off due to the Covid outbreak.

The NPR is a biometric database of residents of India that records data like name, age, address, and details of Aadhaar card, mobile phone, passport, etc. It ran into a raft of protests because of apprehension it would be linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) whose entries would involve proof of citizenship either by birth or naturalisation. The pandemic doused that fire. Whether the NPR would be updated along with the house listing when the exercise begins in 2025 is not clear yet. The second phase is the business end of the decennial Census as it involves population enumeration.

A week before the Census news broke, the government extended the Central deputation of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, till August 2026. A 1995 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, he has been on the post under the Ministry of Home Affairs since 2020.

Double-edged sword

Delimitation is a constitutional requirement after every Census. It was carried out after the 1951, 1961, and 1971 Census, fixing the number of Lok Sabha seats at 494, 522, and 543, respectively to represent the population at that time — 36 crore, 44 crore and 55 crore, respectively.

It was frozen in 1976 by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi for 25 years with the stated objective of encouraging population control as the skew between performing and non-performing states was already visible and the South was beginning to grumble about rewarding the laggards. The freeze came through the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 till the year 2000. At that time the number of Lok Sabha seats was based on the latest available population (1971 Census).

In 2002, prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee did an encore through another Constitutional amendment Act and extended the freeze for 25 more years, till 2026. That amendment is still in force and the current number of Parliamentary seats continues to be based on the 1971 Census data. This is despite the fact that a limited delimitation exercise was carried out in 2002 based on the 2001 Census. The 2002 delimitation readjusted boundaries of existing Lok Sabha and assembly seats and reworked the number of constituencies reserved for SCs and STs while keeping the total number of Lok Sabha seats static at 543, based on the 1971 Census.

India's population has almost doubled since 1971, and even a conservative estimate suggests the number of Lok Sabha seats should be at least 750. The apparent purpose behind the construction of the new Parliament at such rapid pace was to create room for accommodation of more members in a post-delimitation scenario.

Legal questions

Article 82 of the Constitution specifies that delimitation can kick in only after the data of the first census taken after 2026 is published. It led to chatter over whether the cartographic exercise would stand legal scrutiny since the next census exercise will begin a year early, in 2025. But a look at the 2011 Census calendar addresses the confusion. Its house listing began a year earlier — from April to September, 2010. The field work of the second phase of population enumeration was carried out in February-March, 2011. If the NDA government were to follow that template, it would label it as the 2026 Census, whose exercise would begin in 2025.

But if it is called the 2025 Census, it would stumble on Article 82's bar on delimitation unless it is amended, said a former officer associated with the Office of Registrar General of India (ORGI), which is responsible for conducting the census.

Another senior officer in the Ministry of Law and Justice said that the provisions in the Constitution, barring the basic structure and fundamental rights, are not cast in stone. Each one of them can be revisited. "While the 42nd amendment of the Constitution pushed delimitation to post-2000, the 84th amendment in 2002 replaced 2000 with 2026. Now, if the government thinks fit, it is fully equipped to advance the end date to 2024 or any other date to remove the legal and Constitutional hurdle for delimitation," he said, adding that even the requirement of endorsement through simple resolution by one-half of the state assemblies can be taken easily, as more than 50% of the states in the country are currently ruled by the NDA.

North-South divide

However, delimitation is bound to open up old wounds and drive a wedge between the North and the South. NDA ally and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu triggered a storm by calling on women in his state to bear at least two children to stabilise its population. Andhra's birth rate is under the replacement level of 2.1 live births per woman.

South India is witnessing an aging problem, Naidu said, adding each woman should give birth to more than two children in their lifetime. His Tamil Nadu counterpart M K Stalin linked it to the delimitation exercise, saying people could end up thinking about raising "16 children" for demographic rebalance, alluding to a Tamil saying. The South is wary because its share of Lok Sabha seats would drop drastically and so would their clout in national decision making if delimitation in its present form gets the green light.

The corollary is the North getting 'rewarded' with lots more seats despite failing to follow family planning. For instance, Uttar Pradesh, which already has the highest number of seats at 80, is projected to gain the most with nearly 130 MPs after delimitation.

Looked at it differently, Tamil Nadu and Kerala together could lose 16 seats, if Lok Sabha seats are redistributed after delimitation amid a freeze it their total mumber, according to a research paper for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The report said the North could gain more than 32 seats while South may end up losing 24, if the national constituency count stays at 524.

TDP MP and parliamentary party leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu demanded the reworking of the delimitation policy besides more consultations with stakeholders to address Andhra's concerns. "Andhra Pradesh shouldn't lose out on seats and political representation. We have done well in population policy and we shouldn't be punished for that," he told this newspaper.

Sources in the government indicated that before the delimitation ball is set in motion, additional factors beyond population could be introduced to address the skew against the South.

For example, provisions for inclusion of those who are underrepresented owing to social factors. Another suggestion is on increasing the number of seats in certain geographies so that no state ends up losing constituencies, but that would enhance the numerical gulf between the North and the South.

Written in stone

The Delimitation Commission in India — the body tasked with redrawing of constituencies—has representatives of all political parties. It will consider their concerns and look for solutions, sources said.

But once the Delimitation Commission makes a decision, its orders have the force of law and cannot be questioned before any court. "The orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President. Copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them," as per the Election Commission of India.

Misplaced debate

However, some experts say the debate over regional imbalance is completely misplaced. "Regionalism is bad for India. Highly populated states have their own economic disadvantages. Like mineral rich states lost substantially due to freight equaliser. And then India is not an ideal federation like the US, where equal representation is given to each of the states in the Senate, irrespective of their size and population," says political analyst and former Patna University professor, N K Chaudhary.

"We have another model of Nepal, where the mountainous regions have higher representation in the national assembly despite having less population than the tarai (foothills and plains). This is erroneous, as it is devoid of natural justice and principles of democracy," he told this newspaper.

According to him, a national consensus should be arrived at before delimitation of Parliamentary and assembly constituencies, and the genuine concerns of the states having lesser population should be addressed before taking the final decision. He went on to add that all options, including that of maintaining the present proportion of representation could be tried while increasing the numbers of overall seats in Parliament and state assemblies. Also, a new system of resource allocations could be worked out, he suggested. While the Central government will have to walk a fine line on this, it also has to deal with another tricky issue — enumeration of all castes across India.

Caste census

Since 1951, when the first census of Independent India was conducted, only the number of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been counted, not of all castes. The reason for capturing the data of only the SCs and STs was to ensure the number of seats reserved for the two communities in the legislatures reflects the proportion of their population. Currently, of the 543 Lok Sabha seats, 84 are reserved for the SCs and 47 for the STs.

However, there is a growing demand for a comprehensive caste census. Several political leaders, social activists and civil society groups are demanding such an exercise saying it is essential to accurately assess the social landscape and ensure targeted policy interventions.

The demand gained further tempo after Bihar released its own caste survey results, which showed that the other backward classes (OBC) and the extremely backward classes (EBC) together constitute a whopping 63% of the state's population. Ever since, the Congress-led INDIA bloc intensified the call for a national caste census, though the grand old party is struggling to release the outcome of a similar exercise in Karnataka, as it is said to found that the population of the dominant Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities is much lower than claimed.

Government sources say no decision has been taken on the national caste census yet, though key NDA allies like the JD(U) and the TDP are in its favour. As for the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological fountainhead of the BJP, it has no objection to collecting data on specific communities or castes if it is used for welfare.

A couple of months ago, RSS chief spokesperson Sunil Ambekar said: "In cases where special attention is needed, the government needs the numbers (the number of men, women, and children belonging to a given community). Then there is no problem... but it should be for welfare only. Should not be used as a political tool. We draw the line there."

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh has sought an all-party meeting to address pressing concerns regarding the Census, saying it was long overdue since 2021. His demand highlights two crucial issues: the inclusion of a comprehensive caste enumeration beyond SCs and STs, and whether this Census will serve as a basis for delimiting Lok Sabha seats per Article 82 of the Constitution. Census could also figure in Parliament's winter session that will begin on November 25.

Questions on sects

Then there is the issue of enumeration of sects affiliated to different communities like the Lingayats, who identify themselves as a distinct sect within Hinduism. There is also a demand within the Scheduled Castes for recognition of sect-specific identities, such as Valmikis and Ravidasis. The Census could potentially reflect these nuances. The government has not taken a call on this sensitive issue yet.

First digital census

After the Census 2021 was deferred due to the pandemic, the government repeatedly extended the deadline for freezing the boundaries of administrative units such as districts, tehsils, villages, etc — which is a mandatory procedure prior to the start of the exercise. However, no extension order was issued after June 30, 2024.

"The census process has undergone a major technical updation since its last iteration. The upcoming one will be the first digital census that will allow respondents to self-enumerate at both the house listing and the population enumeration stage. All replies to the census questionnaire will be uploaded on the dedicated Census portal," said a senior official who is involved in the process. The officer confirmed that the work on setting up a Census portal is in process. "Since the processes have undergone a technical overhaul, the requirement for a fresh pre-test may be considered, even though the app and the software are being tested internally. The enumerators need to be trained beforehand with the new processes and the Census app," he said.

Women's quota

Whenever the delimitation exercise is wrapped up, it would lift the constitutional bar on reserving seats for women in Parliament. The government can be expected to milk the women's reservation bill it passed last year amid great fanfare in a special session of the new Parliament on September 20. Sources suggest the process of earmarking seats reserved for women for the 2029 general elections is likely to be taken up in 2027-28.

One Nation, One Poll

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong One Nation, One Poll (ONOP) pitch during his Independence Day address from Red Fort in August. He could as well take it up after the delimitation dust settles.

Pragmatism suggests that the government would not want to fight on multiple fronts simultaneously. ONOP is much more difficult than delimitation as it requires at least five constitutional amendments. The government does not have the numbers at present to get those constitutional amendments passed in Parliament.

Article 82 on delimitation

Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:

Provided that such readjustment shall not affect representation in the House of the People until the dissolution of the then existing House:

Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment:

Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust-

(i) the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the states as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census; and

(ii) the division of each state into territorial constituencies as may be readjusted on the basis of the 2001 Census, under this article.

When 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 amended Article 82

In Article 82 of the Constitution, after the proviso, the following provisos shall be inserted, namely:

"Provided further that such readjustment shall take effect from such date as the President may, by order, specify and until such readjustment takes effect, any election to the House may be held on the basis of the territorial constituencies existing before such readjustment:

Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2000 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies under this article."

84th Amendment in 2002

It kicked the delimitation can down the road by extending the bar proportional representation of seats for the next 25 years till 2026

Questionnaire

Questions to be posed during house-listing include the total number of persons normally residing in the household, whether the head of the household is a woman, number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household, number of married couple(s), whether the family has telephone, internet connection, mobile or smartphone, two-wheeler or four-wheeler, the cereal they consume, main source of drinking water, main source of lighting, access to loos and their type, waste water outlet, availability of bathing facility, availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection, main fuel used for cooking, availability of radio, transistor, television etc.